BOE evaluates PSS commissioner. PAGE 2
DPS: Motive in cliff plunge still undetermined. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

The shot watched round the world

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May Parsons at the University Hospital in Coventry, England, administers the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on 90-year-old Margaret Keenan last Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, making Keenan the first patient in the UK to receive the vaccine. AP

By DANICA KIRKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—A nurse rolled up 90-year-old Margaret Keenan's sleeve and administered a shot watched round the world—the first jab in the U.K.'s COVID-19 vaccination program kicking off an unprecedented global effort to try to end a pandemic that has killed 1.5 million people.

Keenan, a retired shop clerk from Northern Ireland who celebrates her birthday next week, was at the front of the line at University Hospital

See SHOT on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Dec. 9, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,019	7	7,026
Recovered	6,248	0	6,248
Active	658	7	665
Deaths	113	0	113
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			85,864

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	113	0	113
Traced via Travel Screening	83	0	83
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,633*
Days since last community transmission			112

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Lohas Massage's 60- and 90-minute massages come with free LED mask treatment.

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NATION
President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday called for urgent action on the coronavirus pandemic.

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ENVIRONMENT
Take on the #Plant-500Marianas challenge of the LDTF and "Plant. Picture. Post."

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

NMHC hires 12 to oversee NMI's CDBG grant

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has hired 12 staff to oversee the CNMI's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery grant that was approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development last Oct. 16.

NMHC deputy director Zennie Mafnas said they are looking at hiring even more staff to have a complete team of 45 employees to run of CBDG-DR grant. Right now, NMHC already has 40 staff but they attend to regular block grants, home loan programs, and their other programs.

As for the funding source for the new hires, Mafnas stated that 7% of the grant to pay for the 45 staff will come from the CDBG-DR program. This totals $16,042,165 of $243,946,000 that was allotted to the CNMI.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan's Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency's ballroom yesterday, Wilfred Camacho, who is under NMHC's CB-DG-DR team, stated that they are looking at between now and the end of January to do public outreach and education on what is needed to apply for the grant.

NMHC announced last Oct. 16 that U.S. HUD approved the CNMI's action plan that will help fix infrastructure, houses, buildings, etc., after the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut, and that the CNMI was awarded $1,090,630 under the Emergency Solutions Grants Program of U.S. HUD last July 19, 2020.

According to Camacho, they are expected to build approximately 20 to 30 newly-built homes using the grant.

In a previous statement, Palacios said that 25% of the entire ESG grant will be set aside for the elderly and disabled, while 6% of the entire allocation will be for Rota and Tinian.

ESG Financial Assistance, for qualified and approved applicants, will be for one year and includes 100% rental assistance, security deposit, utility deposit and utility allowance, for up to six months in arrears.

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BOE evaluates PSS commissioner

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education met in a closed-door meeting last Dec. 9 to evaluate Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, the results of which would be disclosed on Dec. 16.

The four-and-a-half hour meeting, held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room, was a full executive session, which means it was closed to the public and the media. *Saipan Tribune* later tried to obtain comments from BOE chair Janice A. Tenorio, but she declined to talk about the results of the evaluation, besides saying the results will be announced at the BOE's next meeting on Dec. 16.

Ada

The full board was in attendance except for BOE member Marylou S. Ada.

She did not specify the specific rubrics used to evaluate Ada but said they were provided the criteria they used to make the performance evaluation.

Ada became Education commissioner of the Public School System last November 2019 and served his first day as PSS chief last Dec. 2, 2019. At that time, Ada acknowledged that PSS' biggest challenge was to recover in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, which destroyed many PSS campuses in October. 2018. Currently, the biggest challenge that PSS sees is returning to face-to-face classes after switching to remote learning last March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Right now, most PSS classes are held online.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Ada cited former Education commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos as his inspiration, who was his mentor during his earlier time with PSS, and that she had said that he would be a perfect fit as commissioner.

The term of the education commissioner usually lasts four years but, pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), it is a standard procedure for the commissioner to be evaluated every year. Prior to Ada, the former PSS Education commissioner was Glenn Muña.

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Scholarship OK'd for 5 students who obtain masters in behavioral health

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Senate passed on first and final reading a bill that will establish a Behavioral Health Professional Scholarship in the CNMI to address the shortage of behavioral health professionals among U.S. citizens or permanent residents in the Commonwealth.

Manglona

Such professionals refer to psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists, counselors, social workers, and substance abuse professionals.

All eight senators present at the session voted "yes" to pass Senate Bill No. 21-40 in the form of Senate Draft 1. The bill will go to the House.

Vice president Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) introduced the legislation in September 2019. It was then referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare for disposition.

The purpose of the bill is to establish a behavioral health professional scholarship for five eligible students who aspire to obtain a master's degree in a behavioral health field.

In exchange, the scholarship recipients must return to the CNMI and work at the Commonwealth Health Center, Community Guidance Center, Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, or the Public School System for a certain number of years.

The amount allocated for each master's degree scholarship shall be $10,000 per annum per students enrolled in a graduate program at a college or university in the U.S. or its territories or at any Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education partner institution for a period of up to two years.

Before the voting, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (D-Rota) said the CNMI should seek CNMI students who are in the United States who already have advance degrees in behavioral health field. He said there are a lot of CNMI students who already have attained advanced degree in the U.S. mainland and it's just a matter of recruiting them and giving them a good salary so they can be enticed to come back to the Commonwealth.

"I support this [bill] but, on the other hand, we should also be trying to reach out to these students who are presently in the U.S.," the senator said.

CHamoru commission meeting set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second December monthly virtual meeting on Dec. 17, 2020, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom link. Call Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for Zoom link information, special accommodations, and agenda at 480-4047 or rolandblas1973@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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24,305 MILES • STK:17BC53703
SALE PRICE $10,995
KBB: $11,846

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11,239 MILES • STK:18BC54883
SALE PRICE $9,995
KBB: $9,364

2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
29,072 MILES • STK:16BC051
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $12,943

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS
39,201 MILES • STK:7R220
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $12.682

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3
16,856 MILES • STK:18BC54859
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,796

2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
35,868 MILES • STK:16BC091
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $13,365

2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER HATCHBACK
39,217 MILES • STK:20H068-A
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $15,830

2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK LX
9,422 MILES • STK:18HS918
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $18,614

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
28,889 MILES • STK:18BC54873
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,219

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
15,847 MILES • STK:18BC54860
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $16,545

2016 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE
27,501 MILES • STK:16HS747
SALE PRICE $19,995
KBB: $20,833

2016 MAZDA MX-5 CONVERTIBLE
15,774 MILES • STK:20D045A
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KBB: $19,834

2013 TOYOTA RUNNER
70,356 MILES • STK:3P291
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DPS: Motive in cliff plunge still undetermined

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has yet to affirm whether the incident involving a man whose vehicle plunged off Suicide Cliff last Tuesday counts as the second traffic-related fatality of 2020.

This is because there is still a possibility that the incident was a suicide, according to a statement from DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan yesterday.

"DPS is still looking at other motives and has not classified the case as a suicide as of present time. This case is still ongoing. As of right now, DPS has not classified the case yet and is still investigating, so we can't [also] say it's a traffic fatality," he said.

As of 5:30pm press time, Pangelinan said they have yet to identify the body of the operator of the vehicle.

Saipan Tribune learned from a source that the man was of Filipino decent but DPS has yet to confirm this. According to a DPS statement, police have contacted the victim's next of kin, who has asked that the name of the operator and the family be kept confidential.

In an updated press release, DPS reported that when police conducted a walk-through around the lookout area, they found a license plate near the damaged railing on Suicide Cliff and were able to get the name of the vehicle owner, who is believed to have been the operator of the vehicle during the incident.

Based on police observation of the scene, investigators believe that the operator ejected from the vehicle because the body was found partially pinned underneath the vehicle. The vehicle then caught fire and the body was burned beyond recognition.

An earlier DPS statement said that DPS received a 911 call at about 4:34pm, reporting a vehicle run-off at the Suicide Cliff lookout in Marpi. The witness told police that a dark-colored vehicle was seen driving off the cliff.

DPS and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Search and Rescue Unit team were immediately dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, police and SARU confirmed that a black, Toyota Tacoma was found inside a heavily vegetated area just below the cliffline.

The rail that once served as the barrier between site's edge and Suicide Cliff was damaged after a man drove his Tacoma pickup truck through it last Tuesday.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

OAG report: 9 employees furloughed due to budget cuts

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General furloughed nine Civil Service employees this fiscal year as part of a series of reductions caused by a budget cut arising from a government revenue shortfall, according to the OAG's Citizen Centric Report for Fiscal Year 2020.

The report said that the reduction-in-force was a ripple effect of a 48% reduction in the fiscal year 2020 budget that forced the government to implement the furlough. The OAG also implemented a 64-hour work schedule.

The OAG report said the revenue shortfall, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in severe reduction in government funding, which affected the office's personnel and operational budget.

With respect to its budget in fiscal year 2020, $1,417,994 million was from general funds for personnel and operations, and $230, 406 from federal funds, bringing total expenditures to $1,648,405.

The OAG's total administration collections was $14,070, and total child support collections was $446,729.

The report also stated that the OAG prevailed in 15 of 16 appeals decided in fiscal year 2020, while also prevailing in five litigation cases and two administrative matters.

The OAG also supported a majority of states to settle claims against two opioid drug makers, Purdue and Mallinckrodt.

The OAG also successfully protested the parole of a convicted murder, among other accomplishments.

As for its key initiatives in 2021, the OAG said it will continue to provide legal advice and guidance to the Executive Branch, departments, and agencies and to represent the Commonwealth in the trial court and on matters currently on appeal.

The OAG said it will focus on illegal business practices that hurt consumers and other businesses; implement consumer awareness programs; and investigate consumer complaints.

It will also continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions to expand resource activities to combat illegal drug and criminal activity in the CNMI.

The OAG also intends to continue to promote and ensure an open and transparent government, continue to work on new procurement regulations for the government and provide training to agencies, and continue to explore solutions to mental health issues in the criminal justice system.

Public Law 20-83 requires all agencies to file a CCR, a four-page report created by the Association of Government Accountants as a way to simplify communication between the government and its citizens.

Emergency water service outage today

There will be an emergency water service interruption today, Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020, from 8:30am to 4pm, for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag areas.

The emergency water service interruption is due to two 3-inch service line leaks located across the Kensington Hotel and Esmeralda Drive in San Roque. Repairs on the waterlines are anticipated to be completed by 4pm today. Water services to the affected areas will resume soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes during the period of the waterline repairs.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

SHOT

From Page 1

Coventry to receive the vaccine that was approved by British regulators last week.

The U.K. is the first Western country to deliver a broadly tested and independently reviewed vaccine to the general public. The COVID-19 shot was developed by U.S. drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech. U.S. and European Union regulators may approve it in the coming days or weeks.

"All done?" Keenan asked nurse May Parsons. "All done," came the reply, as hospital staff broke into applause and also clapped for her as she was wheeled down a corridor.

"I feel so privileged to be the first person vaccinated against COVID-19," said Keenan, who wore a surgical mask and a blue "Merry Christmas" T-shirt with a cartoon penguin in a Santa hat. "It's the best early birthday present I could wish for because it means I can finally look forward to spending time with my family and friends in the New Year after being on my own for most of the year."

The second injection, in a fitting bit of drama, went to an 81-year-old man named William Shakespeare from Warwickshire, the county where the bard was born.

The fanfare was good cheer to the nation, if but for a moment. Authorities warned that the vaccination campaign would take many months, meaning painful restrictions that have disrupted daily life and punished the economy are likely to continue until spring. The U.K. has seen over 61,000 deaths in the pandemic—more than any other country in Europe—and has recorded more than 1.7 million confirmed cases.

"This really feels like the beginning of the end," said Stephen Powis, medical director for the National Health Service in England. "It's been a really dreadful year, 2020—all those things that we are so used to, meeting friends and family, going to the cinema, have been disrupted. We can get those back. Not tomorrow. Not next week. Not next month. But in the months to come."

But it is important beyond these shores. Britain's program is likely to provide lessons for other countries as they prepare for the unprecedented task of vaccinating billions.

On Saturday, Russia began vaccinations with its Sputnik V vaccine, and China has also begun giving its own domestically made shots to its citizens and selling them abroad. But those are being viewed differently because neither countries' vaccines have finished the late-stage trials scientists consider essential for proving a serum is safe and effective.

Other vaccines are also being reviewed by regulators around the world, including a collaboration between Oxford University and drugmaker AstraZeneca and one developed by U.S. biotechnology company Moderna.

Documents released by U.S. regulators Tuesday confirmed that Pfizer's vaccine was strongly protective against COVID-19 and appeared safe. New results on a possible vaccine from Oxford University and drugmaker AstraZeneca suggest it is safe and about 70% effective, according to early test results from Britain and Brazil. But that report, in the medical journal Lancet, showed that questions remain about how well it helps protect those over 55.

British regulators approved the Pfizer shot Dec. 2, and the country has received 800,000 doses, enough to vaccinate 400,000 people. The first shots are going to people over 80 who are either hospitalized or already have outpatient appointments scheduled, along with nursing home workers and vaccination staff.

Others must wait, and health officials have said that those who are most at risk from the virus will be vaccinated in the early stages. For most people, it will be next year before there is enough vaccine to expand the program.

U.K. health officials have worked for months to adapt a system geared toward vaccinating groups like school children and pregnant women into one that can rapidly reach much of the population.

Questions arose about when the country's most prominent senior couple—Queen Elizabeth II, 94, and her husband, Prince Philip, 99—would get the vaccine and whether it would happen on camera.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab appeared nonplussed when he was asked about it by NBC.

"I'm not sure whether they'd do it on camera," Raab said. "But I'm sure arrangements will be made according to the phased approach that I set out, and like any family, they would have felt the pressures and all the worries that surround this pandemic as well."

10% of NMI population inoculated with flu vaccine

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

So far, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has already inoculated 6,612 people in the CNMI with the influenza vaccine, with a goal to vaccinate 20,000 people in the CNMI by January 2021,

According to Vaccinate CNMI's official website, 1,299 children and 5,313 children have been vaccinated in the CNMI as of Dec. 4.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña stated in previous interviews that the quantitative data on influenza data in the CNMI this year will aid in CHCC's efforts to predict how many of the local population will avail to the COVID-19 vaccine.

The CNMI has an estimated population of 50,000.

"This season it's more important than ever to get a flu shot. Getting a flu shot protects you, your loved ones, and our community from the flu. If you've never gotten a flu shot before, this is the year to start," said CHCC in a statement.

Influenza, or the flu, is a potentially serious disease that can lead to hospitalizations and sometimes death. According to CHCC, getting the flu vaccine every year is the best way to help protect against the flu; however, every flu season is different and influenza infection can affect people differently.

How the vaccine works is that it contains pieces of "killed or weakened virus particles." It is not likely that you will get the flu from the vaccine, but encountering the flu-like symptoms, such as fever and sore arms, after getting the flu shot is a sign that your body is correctly responding to the vaccine.

There are two ways to get the vaccine: the flu shot, and for those who aren't a fan of needles, there is also a nasal spray vaccine.

The viruses in a flu shot are killed, or inactivated, so you cannot get flu from a flu shot. The viruses in the nasal spray vaccine are weakened and don't cause severe symptoms that often comes with influenza illness.

CHCC stated that it takes approximately two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against influenza virus infection, which is why it's best to get vaccinated before influenza viruses spread.

The flu vaccine is needed every season for two reasons: first, a person's immune protection from vaccination declines over time, so an annual vaccine is needed for optimal protection. Second, the flu virus is constantly changing.

According to CHCC, the flu vaccines may be updated from one season to the next to protect against viruses that research suggests may be most common during the upcoming flu season. It is best that everyone six months and older should get vaccinated annually.

The CNMI is expected to receive the COVID-19 vaccine late this year or early next year.

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Saturday, December 12, 2020 @ 1300
Register for the virtual webinar here:
https://url.uog.edu/uogshrm-veteransspeakerseries
Featuring a Veterans +1 Watch Party on Saipan
The Northern Marianas Humanities Council invite veterans and a guest to attend the event in-person at Pacific Islands Club (Charley's Cabaret) on Saipan. Seating is limited to 50 people with lunch provided @ 1200.
RSVP Required: http://www.nmhcouncil.org/vet-rsvp
OUR PANELISTS
Daniel Okada
Retired Lt. Colonel
US Army
Vince Borja
Retired Staff Sergeant
US Army
Elisbeth Viola Alepuyo
Former Specialist
US Army
Franklin Babauta
Retired Lt. Colonel
US Army
Frederick Dela Cruz
Retired Sergent First Class
US Army
Dr. Richard Colfax
HM3 (Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class), US Navy
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This program is supported by Northern Marianas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The views and opinions expressed by this program do not necessarily reflect those of Northern Marianas Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

SIS creates support club for animal rights group SCA

Saipan International School recently formed the Saipan Care for Animals Support Club to make students and parents aware of the needs of Saipan's animals and pets.

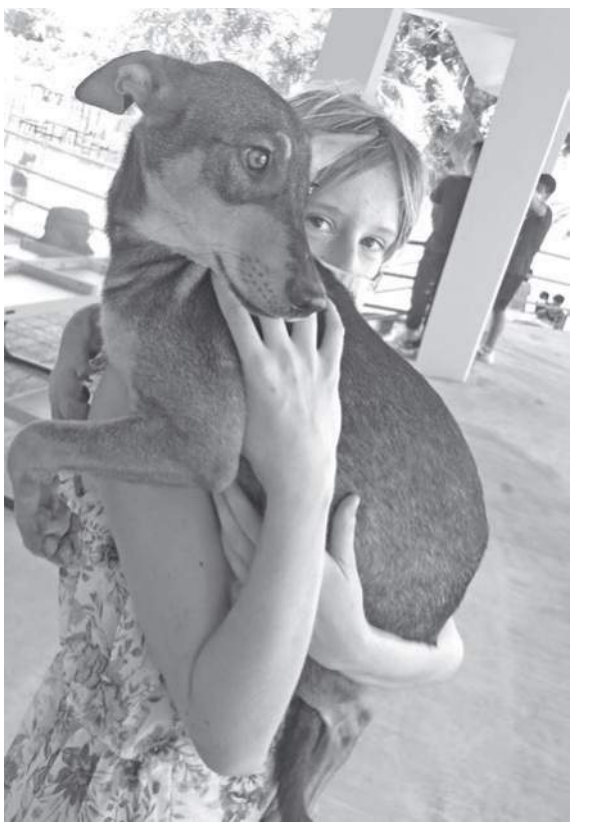
Through different activities, the club hopes to increase awareness and raise money to support the non-profit animal rights group Saipan Care for Animals.

This coming Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9am to 1pm, SIS students and SCA personal will have an "Adoption Day" outside of Joeten grocery store in Susupe.

"We hope we find lots of homes for these cute puppies," said Stephanie Kim, president of the SIS SCA Support Club.

SCA coordinator Zoe Travis said the puppies are ready for adoption, have all their vaccines, and are neutered. There is a small fee to help cover the cost of the veterinarian and vaccines when you adopt a pet from SCA.

For more information, contact Travis at saipancareforanimals@gmail.com, Facebook (@saipancares) or website: saipancaresforanimals.com. ***(PR)***



Saipan International School student Becca Eaton with a rescued dog.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rip current warning until tonight

The public is being advised that a high rip current risk remains in effect through late Thursday night on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present in east-facing reefs of the Marianas until late tonight.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is being advised to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing east. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don`t swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

Public Notice

Adjusted DCRM Permitting Section Office Hours

Beginning Monday, December 14, 2020, and until further notice, the Division of Coastal Resources Management's (DCRM) Permitting Section will be closed to the public every Monday in order to progress the work on digitizing our permit files and updating our permitting system to improve customer service and better assist in expediting application review and permit issuance. The Permitting Section will continue to be open to serve the public in-person from Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00am to 3:00pm, and electronically via our online permitting system at www.dcrm.gov.mp or by emailing permitting@dcrm.gov.mp.

For further assistance, please contact us at 664-8300. Thank you for your understanding.

/s/JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-009

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation of two SCADA systems and two additives at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-009, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 5, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 22, 2020** to Manny Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Karidat now on smile.amazon.com

Karidat Social Services has been invited by Amazon to participate in their "Amazon Smile Charity Program," a new and meaningful way for people to donate to their favorite charity at www.smile.amazon.com.

How does it work? It's easy. Smile.Amazon.com has all your favorite items from Amazon. Log into www.smile.amazon.com with your usual Amazon username and password. If this is your first time to purchase items on Amazon from www.smile.amazon.com, it will direct you to select your charity—type in Karidat, and from then on Karidat will be automatically registered to your account. There is no additional cost to your Amazon purchases.

By using www.smile.amazon.com to make your favorite purchases, Amazon will donate .05% of all eligible purchases to Karidat.

"Karidat would like to invite the community to use this opportunity when buying things online and have a portion of their purchases donated to Karidat," said a Karidat statement yesterday. ***(PR)***

257 families benefit from Bridge Capital food drive

Karidat Social Services recently teamed up with Bridge Capital in a food drive that distributed $10,000 worth of food, including frozen chicken, rice, canned food, and milk, for needy families struggling with the loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro thanked Bridge Capital general manager Bartley A. Jackson and the Bridge Capital team led by Julie Duenas for reaching out to Karidat for the food drive that was held last Oct. 10, 2020. The food drive benefited a total of 257 families.

"When Bridge Capital reached out to Karidat stating they wanted to do a food drive for needy families, we told them to just tell us when and where we'll have the families for you," said Ogumoro.

Jackson and Duenas stopped by Karidat last Nov. 19 to drop off some additional food bags, and put an ornament on the Karidat Giving Tree. ***(PR)***

Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri Ogumoro and Bridge Capital general manager Bartley Jackson put ornaments on the Karidat Giving Tree last Nov. 19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Attention CNMI Government Employees, Retirees and Surviving Spouses

Open Enrollment ends soon

Open enrollment runs Monday, November 16 — Friday, December 18

We're honored to continue delivering health insurance coverage and well-being resources to CNMI Government active employees, retirees, surviving spouses and your families.

Due to COVID-19 your enrollment experience looks different this year. But don't worry ... we've got you covered.

Your health and safety are paramount so Open Enrollment is a little different this year:

- We're adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols and government regulations
- Visit the websites listed below to view your Open Enrollment material and enrollment/change of status form to help you choose the best plan for you and your loved ones
- Open Enrollment support will be available by phone (in-person meetings will be limited to appointment only)

After reviewing your plan options and premium cost share, if you're satisfied with your current plan and coverage, you DO NOT need to submit an enrollment form.

Your current benefits will be rolled over into the new plan year and you'll continue to use your current Member ID card.

However, if after reading through your Open Enrollment material you'd like additional support, we will be happy to help:

- For Open Enrollment inquiries, contact Pacifica locally at: **670-234-6267** Monday — Friday, 8 AM-5 PM
- For non-OE related inquiries, contact our Member Service Center 24/7 at: **800-231-7729**

Websites to help you choose a plan:

- Aetna International: **www.AetnaInternational.com/cnmi-ghli**
- CNMI Dept of Finance: **www.dof.gov.mp**
- Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.: **www.pacificains.com/ghlit**

Upon completing an Enrollment/Change of Status Form, deliver your Form and any required documentation:

- Active employees: to your respective Agency/Department of Human Resources
- Retirees and surviving spouses: to Pacifica located in the Joeten Shopping Center, Insatto St., Susupe

Open enrollment ends Friday, December 18.

AetnaInternational.com

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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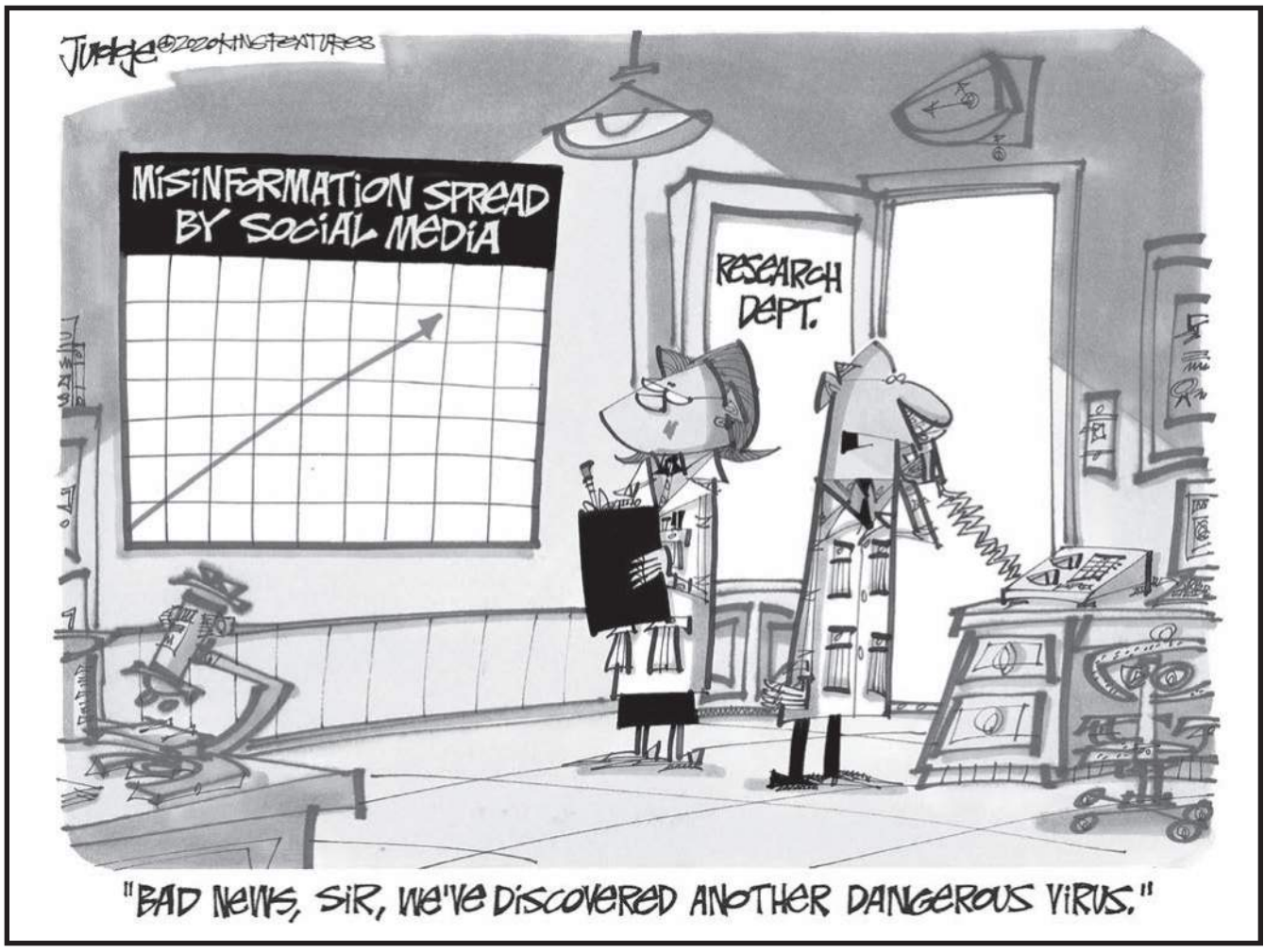

EDITORIAL

DACA ruling a victory for 'Dreamers,' but US needs more than piecemeal immigration policies

A federal judge's latest affirmation that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program—DACA—should be reinstated is great news for the young people called "Dreamers," who for the past four years have been tiptoeing around the possibility of being deported.

The judge's ruling also affirmed the ongoing absurdity of U.S. immigration policies that for years have lacked the coherence of comprehensive reform.

Friday, Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis of the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, ordered the Trump administration to restore DACA, created by President Obama's executive order in 2012. It prevents the deportation of young, undocumented immigrants, whose parents brought them to the United States illegally when they were children. The ruling says the administration must again accept applications for DACA renewal as well as from those who are newly eligible.

Several lawsuits

President Trump, who in 2016 vociferously campaigned on a bigoted anti-immigrant platform, announced in September 2017 that he was ending DACA, which he had used as a bargaining chip to get funds for his border wall. His action and the viability of the program itself have been litigated in courts ever since, alleging that the administration ended the program unlawfully.

Along the way, U.S. district courts in New York, California and the District of Columbia allowed those protected by DACA to renew coverage.

And there have been challenges to DACA's existence, and those are expected to continue. Despite President-elect Joe Biden's stated support for the program, the U.S. Supreme Court, with the addition of conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett, has signaled its dissatisfaction with DACA.

The Editorial Board has always supported DACA: It protects blameless undocumented immigrants while giving them the legal tools to get an education and find employment. In all, their numbers are few; eligibility requirements are stringent; individually, Dreamers are rarely burdens on the nation's social services. In all, it has shielded about 800,000 young people from deportation.

But the ping-ponging fortunes of the Dreamers highlight the absurdity of this nation's willingness to create immigration law by the stroke of a pen, rather than by lawmakers courageously working toward a tough, fair and, ultimately, effective endgame for this nation's 11 million undocumented immigrants.

This didn't begin with the Trump administration. In 1995, President Clinton signed off on admitting Cuban rafters only if they made it to dry land. Obama ended it in early 2017. Back in 1907, Theodore Roosevelt signed executive orders restricting Japanese and Korean laborers.

"This piecemeal approach…causes a lot of uncertainty for

See DACA on next page

Biden and his team must tackle structural inequality

"It's time we address the structural inequalities in our economy that the pandemic has laid bare," President-elect Joe Biden said last week as he introduced his economic team.

It's a good team. They're competent and they care, in sharp contrast to Donald Trump's goon squad. Many of them were in the trenches with Biden and Barack Obama in 2009, when the economy last needed rescuing.

But reversing "structural inequalities" is a fundamentally different challenge from reversing economic downturns. They may overlap—late last month the Dow Jones Industrial Average hit a record high at the same time Americans experienced the highest rate of hunger in 22 years. Yet the problem of widening inequality is distinct from the problem of recession.

Recessions are caused by sudden drops in demand for goods and services, as occurred in February and March when the pandemic began. Pulling out of a recession requires low interest rates and enough government spending to jump-start private spending. This one will also necessitate the successful inoculation of millions against COVID-19.

By contrast, structural inequalities are caused by a lopsided allocation of power. Wealth and power are inseparable—wealth flows from power and power from wealth. That means reversing structural inequalities requires altering the distribution of power.

Franklin D Roosevelt did this in the 1930s, when he enacted legislation requiring employers to bargain with unionized employees. Lyndon B. Johnson did it in the 1960s with the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts, which increased the political power of Black people.

Since then, though, not even Democratic presidents have tried to alter the distribution of power in America. They and their economic teams have focused instead on jobs and growth. In consequence, inequality has continued to widen—during both recessions and expansions.

For the last 40 years, hourly wages have stagnated and almost all economic gains have gone to the top. The stock market's meteoric rise has benefited the wealthy at the expense of wage earners. The richest 1 percent of U.S. households now own 50 percent of the value of stocks held by Americans. The richest 10 percent own 92 percent.

Why have recent Democratic presidents been reluctant to take on structural inequality?

First, because they have taken office during deep recessions, which posed a more immediate challenge. The initial task facing Biden will be to restore jobs, requiring that his administration contain COVID-19 and get a major stimulus bill through Congress. Biden has said any stimulus bill passed in the lame duck session will be "just the start."

By ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune News Service

Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, is professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of The System: Who Rigged It, How We Fix It.

Second, it's because politicians' time horizons rarely extend beyond the next election. Reallocating power can take years. Union membership didn't expand significantly until more than a decade after FDR's Wagner Act. Black voters didn't emerge as a major force in American politics until a half-century after LBJ's landmark legislation.

Third, reallocating power is hugely difficult. Economic expansions can be a positive-sum game because growth enables those at the bottom to do somewhat better even if those at the top do far better. But power is a zero-sum game. The more of it held by those at the top, the less held by others. And those at the top won't relinquish it without a fight. Both FDR and LBJ won at significant political cost.

Today's corporate leaders are happy to support stimulus bills, not because they give a fig about unemployment but because more jobs mean higher profits.

"Is it $2.2 trillion, $1.5 trillion?" JPMorgan Chase chief executive Jamie Dimon said recently in support of congressional action. "Just split the baby and move on."

But Dimon and his ilk will doubtless continue to fight any encroachments on their power and wealth. They will battle antitrust enforcement against their giant corporations, including Dimon's "too big to fail" bank. They're dead set against stronger unions and will resist attempts to put workers on their boards.

They will surely oppose substantial tax hikes to finance trillions of dollars of spending on education, infrastructure and a Green New Deal. And they don't want campaign finance reforms or any other measures that would dampen the influence of big money in politics.

Even if the Senate flips to the Democrats on Jan. 5, these three impediments may discourage Biden from tackling structural inequality.

This doesn't make the objective any less important or even less feasible. It means only that, as a practical matter, the responsibility for summoning the political will to reverse inequality will fall

See BIDEN on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Some hard reckonings in an adopted homeland

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. *Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

In this nation of immigrants, some hard reckoning is going on for many of us who started out someplace else but made our homes in America. Something feels broken that will take longer than a transition of power to fix.

We followed the American dream as the early settlers had done (without visas), expecting the natives to make room for them. We worked to become part of the fabric that binds, only to see the rips in it and feel the welcome mat pulled out. Even the ultimate prize of U.S. citizenship is being whittled down by a president who rules by dividing.

Donald Trump came into office touting a border wall, and leaves yelling specious claims of voter fraud, still pointing the finger at minorities. In between he separated children from their parents at the border and caged them, banned people from Muslim countries and froze permanent residence visas.

He's on his way out, but the intolerance and hatred unleashed in ordinary Americans will take longer to put back in the box. It targets Black Americans who had the audacity to protest police brutality. Trump accused them of "treason" and threw federal troops in their path. His message reached all the way to an Iowa high school baseball game where spectators yelled Trump's name while chanting that a Black player on the opposing team should have been a slave, or killed by police.

Hate crimes in the United States rose last year to their highest level in more than a decade. Between 2017 and 2019, the number of white nationalist groups more than doubled.

Last month, my great-nephew Elijah in Southern California turned 12 and aced most of his classes. His dad, Ishan, is my sister Amrita's son. Elijah's mother is half Jamaican and half African American. Ishan, who looks white, took him to some civil rights rallies this summer and felt it was time to give him "the talk." "People might judge you because of your skin," he said. "Police might judge you. Stay calm. Don't give them a reason to use violence."

I hated that he had to do that but regret not having known to do it with my own sons (who share my complexion) before they faced racial profiling as children.

The American promise lured Elijah's white, Jewish great-great-grandparents from Eastern Europe when pogroms were being waged against Jews in the early 20th century. Arriving penniless in New York, they worked hard and prospered. Paul Kesselman, Elijah's great-grandpa, got an education, became an accountant and opened his own firm. He married a high school biology teacher whose parents had immigrated from Lithuania, and they settled into a middle-class life in the New York suburb of Peekskill. Their son Mark, my brother-in-law, made an illustrious career as a political science professor at Columbia University, marrying Amrita, a professor at Amherst College.

His father's satisfaction with America was only tempered, Mark told me, by the economic and racial inequalities and anti-Semitism they saw here. The latter has also trended upwards in recent years. The FBI reported 953 anti-Semitic hate crimes in 2019, up 14% from the previous year.

I think about parallels with Ebrahim and Shamim Jesani's journey to Atlanta. They're the parents of Sofia, the girlfriend of my younger son, Romen. The family, Indian Muslims, migrated to America from Mumbai in 1985 as newlyweds in search of better prospects than their parents had. New York, with its high crime rate, menial job offerings and struggles to communicate, was a tough adjustment. But they took what they got, later moving to Atlanta, where they had friends. Ebrahim worked as a cashier and, as Mark's father had done, studied accounting and opened up his own firm; 23 years later, it's still thriving.

But the last four years have marred the Jesanis' sense of well-being, inserting apprehension and fear into the mix. From the Muslim ban to the constant scapegoating rhetoric, they've felt the sting of religious intolerance, as the Kesselmans found toward Judaism a century earlier. The currents have pulled Sofia away from her advertising career path to social justice work and political campaigns, starting with organizing a forum on police brutality in 2016. Most recently she worked for Joe Biden's presidential campaign.

Born here into U.S. citizenship and grounded in U.S. cultural trends, Sofia surprised me the other day by saying of her relationship to America, "I still have impostor syndrome like most minorities tend to have here." Much as I hate hearing it, I've been there myself.

My diverse extended family's experiences share much in common with those of other minorities and immigrants struggling to fully belong, especially now. So it fills me with pride to see them standing up for other groups. Take my daughter-in-law Aadhithi, India-born but raised in Singapore where her father was posted with a multinational corporation. She came to the U.S. alone to attend Harvard and met my older son, Raj, at Yale law school. Instead of making a ton of money at a trendy law firm, she works for The New York Legal Aid Society defending poor immigrants, because that's where her heart is.

My own journey here from India was always meant to be temporary. My Indian parents were professionals at the United Nations in New York, where they intended to stay until the mandatory retirement age of 60. Then it was back to my mother's family home in New Delhi. But by the time they left, as I had planned to do with them, I had inconveniently fallen in love with an American of Italian origin.

Four hundred and twelve years after Columbus "sailed the ocean blue," Guiseppe Borsellino and his two brothers departed Italy to seek their own American fortunes, leaving their parents and two sisters behind. Interestingly, the side that flourished most was the one that stayed in Sicily: 11 members became doctors and they live with great sophistication in beautiful homes.

In New York, meanwhile, Guiseppe had a son and a grandson they called Bobby. And while most on the U.S. end made it out of the Bronx and into the suburbs, he grew up in public housing, raised by a single mother who worked as a seamstress in a garment factory after his father's early death.

Rob, as he was later known, put himself through college, became a journalist and by his late 20s, had hopscotched up the ranks of his first newspaper to become its editor—in time to hire me for my first reporting job.

I don't think the Borsellinos ever envisioned an Indian wife as part of their American dream. One uncle wondered aloud if we'd have zebras for kids. But dreams can shift with passing generations.

Though he died too young from ALS, Rob demonstrated a quintessentially Bronx-style resilience and found unlikely success in his life.

And if Elijah got a sobering wake-up call in "the talk," he found pride last month in Sen. Kamala Harris' election as the next vice president. Like her, he has Jamaican and Indian roots, identifies as Black and has a (half) Jewish father. In Harris, Elijah found a new source of hope.

So hope is also my overriding emotion these days: for a vaccine, new leadership and in the generation behind mine, with its broader view and commitment to bringing everyone along. Hope that America will be dynamic enough to tap the best in each of them, and to claim all of us.

Biden rebuild must include race

By ADAM BRIONES
Tribune News Service

Adam Briones is economic equity director of The Greenlining Institute. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

When President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Jan. 20, he will have a unique opportunity to rebuild our battered economy and create the long-lasting change that eluded his predecessors: closing the wealth gap that has left Black and brown Americans, and women of all races, behind.

While what the Biden-Harris administration can accomplish legislatively will largely be decided by the Senate runoff elections in Georgia on Jan. 5, the new administration should begin thinking about how the economy can be brought back after the pandemic in ways that help right historical wrongs.

Biden has already made one excellent decision by nominating former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen as treasury secretary. Yellen, throughout her career, has been committed to making the economy work for all Americans. In 2014, she said in a speech that "inequality has risen to the point that it seems to me worthwhile for the U.S. to seriously consider taking the risk of making our economy more rewarding for more of the people." More recently, she specifically called for closing the U.S. wealth gap.

Following Biden's mandate to "Build Back Better," Yellen should target the wealth gaps for people of color and women. She and her senior staff can start by improving the next iteration of the Paycheck Protection Program. Only about 12% of Black and Latinx businesses who applied earlier this year for aid through a $650 billion program created to support small businesses say they received the relief they requested.

It has also been encouraging to see President-elect Biden propose sweeping yet pragmatic measures to stabilize and grow our economy, with a particular focus on communities of color.

Biden has already committed to extending unemployment insurance as well as a new package of support for small businesses. This is important for communities of color, particularly women of color, since unemployment rates and business failures are significantly higher for those already marginalized in our current economy.

The Biden-Harris administration can also help close the racial wealth gap by using the tools the vast majority of white Americans have used to build wealth: home ownership and small business. Today, for every dollar of wealth held by a white family, Latinx families have only about four cents and Black families just two cents.

President-elect Biden has released plans to increase down-payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, incentivize production of 1.5 million new affordable housing units, leverage more than $150 billion for small businesses structurally excluded for generations and ease the burden of student debt. He should pursue these goals aggressively.

Biden has also committed to strengthening the Federal Reserve's focus on racial inequality. For too long, monetary policy either neglected the needs of communities of color or, as during the run-up to the 2008 mortgage meltdown, actually harmed Black and brown communities.

The Federal Reserve can ensure that the Community Reinvestment Act explicitly addresses racial inequality.

It is also time for the Fed's dual mandate to evolve. Today, the Fed is tasked to promote full employment as well as contain inflation. This should be updated to include eliminating the racial and gender wealth gaps.

Our president-elect seems to genuinely see racism and racial inequality as the moral and economic threat it is. As we rebuild our economy and national sense of trust, he must continue to face that threat head-on.

DACA

From Page 8

many immigrants, a lot of instability," Ted Hutchinson, Florida director of FWD.us, told the Editorial Board on Saturday, referring to Temporary Protected Status.

"Biden should push for comprehensive reform." Hutchinson said, including a pathway to citizenship. Streamline and modernize the system, a 15-to-20-year wait for green cards is counterproductive. Yes, secure the border, not with a wall, but with smart technology.

But this is a job for lawmakers who will see the dangerous folly of letting 11 million people languish in limbo. It's bad for families, for the economy, for civil society. It's a heavy lift, and not one for the new president to hoist alone.

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BIDEN

From Page 8

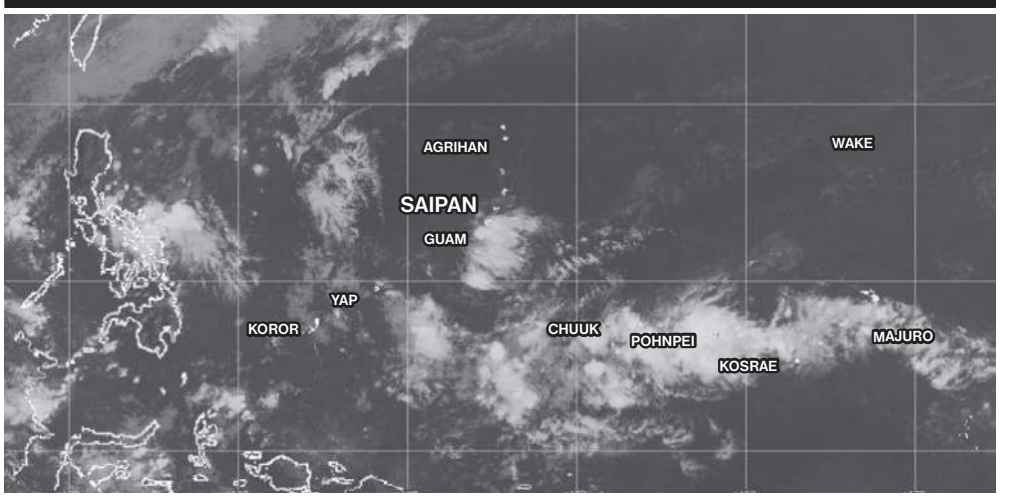
to lower-income Americans of whatever race, progressives and their political allies. They will need to organize, mobilize and put sufficient pressure on Biden and other elected leaders to act. As it was in the time of FDR and LBJ, power is redistributed only when those without it demand it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny. Isolated showers, becoming scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:54 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are approaching the coastal waters of Guam from the east, with isolated showers extending northeast, approaching Rota from the east. Farther north for Tinian and Saipan, the latest satellite imagery does suggest some outflow boundaries surging west-northwest, which should help act as additional foci for convective development later this afternoon. After a brief lull tonight, thunderstorms may return to the region Thursday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:43 AM	2:05 PM	-
Friday	2:40 AM	2:49 PM	-
Saturday	3:40 AM	3:36 PM	-
Sunday	4:42 AM	4:27 PM	-
Monday	5:46 AM	5:23 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	30° / 18°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	66° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 69°
London	Mostly Sunny	34° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 49°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 59°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	74° / 54°
New York	Showers	47° / 26°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	45° / 36°
Paris	Showers	43° / 34°
Busan	Sunny	37° / 21°
Rome	Rain	61° / 52°
Salem	Sunny	51° / 30°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 44°
Seoul	Sunny	27° / 9°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	46° / 34°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	47° / 23°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:11 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.26
9:15 AM	LOW TIDE	0.35
3:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
10:46 PM	LOW TIDE	0.21

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Lohas Massage offers free LED mask treatment

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
Lohas Massage's LED mask treatment and air purifier and disinfectant machine.

MARK RABAGO
Lohas Massage is located on the second floor of the Winchell's Donut building in Susupe across Kanoa Resort.

Lohas Massage has launched a promotion this holiday season where their 60- and 90-minute massages come with free LED mask treatment.

Manager Eun Joo Park said the LED mask treatment usually costs around $10 per session, but Lohas Massage is making it complimentary as a way of thanking customers this Christmas.

"We will provide a free LED light mask trial for all customers who reserve a massage appointment at our shop in December," she said.

LED masks are being promoted as a means to reduce fine lines by stimulating collagen production and combat acne through their antibacterial benefits. The varying wavelengths of light that the LED mask emits reportedly treats different skin concerns. For instance, amber light helps stimulate collagen and firms the skin's elastin. Red light, meanwhile, reduces inflammation and promotes blood circulation, while blue light kills acne-causing bacteria.

Like other businesses on island, Park said Lohas Massage was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in March. In fact, operations were already on a downhill trend even before that, with the decrease in tourists from the CNMI's main markets of China and South Korea.

For more information or to set an appointment, call 235-8000 or 483-4807.

She said before the coronavirus hit the CNMI, Lohas Massage's clientele was made up of 70% tourists and only 30% locals. Now, the massage establishment caters exclusively to local customers, hence the introduction of promotions like the free LED mask treatment when they reopened last Nov. 7.

Lohas Massage also offers one of the lowest rates for 60- and 90-minute massages on island: a 1-hour massage is only $20 and the 1 ½-hour massage is just $30.

It has three expert masseuses with over 10 years' experience and has 10 double-bed rooms and one family room that can accommodate four clients. Their three most popular massages are hot stone massage, coconut oil massage, and acupressure massage.

MARK RABAGO
Lohas Massage has 10 double-bed rooms and one family room that can accommodate four clients.

Park said Lohas Massage is in total compliance with the safety measures being enforced by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. Aside from directional arrows, frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing of staff, practice of social distancing, and wearing of face masks, Lohas Massage also has an air purifier and disinfectant machine to sanitize their premises.

Established in 2014, Lohas Massage is located on the second floor of the Winchell's Donut building in Susupe across Kanoa Resort. It is open Monday-Sunday from 11am to 10pm and for more information or to set an appointment, call 235-8000 or 483-4807.

New White House offer adds $600 checks to COVID-19 relief

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration dove back into Capitol Hill's confusing COVID-19 negotiations on Tuesday, offering a $916 billion package to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that would send a $600 direct payment to most Americans—but eliminate a $300 per week employment benefit favored by a bipartisan group of Senate negotiators.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin made the offer to Pelosi late Tuesday afternoon, he said in a statement. He offered few details, though House GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy said it proposes the $600 direct payment for individuals and $1,200 for couples, which is half the payment delivered by the March pandemic relief bill.

Mnuchin reached out to Pelosi after a call with top congressional GOP leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who remains at odds with Democratic leaders over COVID-19 relief. Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., responded to Mnuchin's entreaty with a statement that said they would prefer to let a bipartisan group take the lead.

The bipartisan group, led by Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, among others, is seeking to rally lawmakers in both parties behind a $908 billion framework that includes a $300-per-week pandemic jobless benefit and $160 billion for states and local governments. It is more generous than a GOP plan that's been filibustered twice already but far smaller than a wish list assembled by House Democrats.

McConnell had earlier proposed shelving a top Democratic priority—aid to state and local governments—in exchange for dropping his own pet provision, a shield against lawsuits for COVID-related negligence. Democrats angrily rejected the idea, saying McConnell was undermining the efforts of a bipartisan group of Senate negotiators and reneging on earlier statements that state and local aid would likely have to be an element of a COVID-19 relief agreement given Democratic control of the House.

Pandemic tames health care cost growth for some employers

Large U.S. employers saw their smallest health care cost increase in more than two decades due to COVID-19, and workers may benefit from that next year, according to the consulting firm Mercer.

Patients stayed home and out of doctor's offices this year to avoid the global pandemic, and that led to an average 1.9% cost hike for companies with 500 or more employees, Mercer found in a national survey.

Those employers were expecting a 3.5% increase, said Beth Umland, Mercer's director of health and benefits research.

The lowest cost increase since 1997 will help many large employers avoid raising deductibles or doing other things to shift costs to workers in 2021, Umland said.

Many companies also will spend some of what they saved adding programs that help improve the health of those covered by their plans. That could include expanding telemedicine, improving access to behavioral health care like therapy or adding programs that help people with a specific condition such as diabetes.

Large employers pay their own health care claims. They can see fairly quickly if costs fall, unlike small employers that pay a fixed premium for coverage.

Those employers may receive rebates for a similar drop in health care use, but they won't know the extent of that until next year.

Employer-sponsored health insurance covers about 157 million people, according to the non-profit Kaiser Family Foundation. ***(AP)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
3,710.25	30,261.00	12,646.00
+8.25	+91.00	+8.50
+0.22%	+0.30%	+0.07%

EXCHANGE RATES
In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.35	Hong Kong Dollar	7.75	Russian Ruble	73.24
British Pound	0.7488	Indian Rupee	73.72	Singapore Dollar	1.33
Canadian Dollar	1.28	Japanese Yen	104.17	South Korean Won	1083.38
Chinese Yuan	6.53	Malaysian Ringgit	4.07	Swiss Franc	0.89
Euro	0.8263	New Zealand Dollar	1.42	Taiwan Dollar	28.25
		Philippine Peso	48.10	Thailand Baht	30.03

Nation

Biden calls for action on virus as he introduces health team

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday called for urgent action on the coronavirus pandemic as he introduced a health care team that will be tested at every turn while striving to restore the nation to normalcy.

Biden laid out three COVID-19 priorities for his first 100 days in office: a call for all Americans to voluntarily mask up during those 100 days, a commitment to administer 100 million vaccines and a pledge to try to reopen a majority of the nation's schools.

"I know that out of our collective pain, we will find our collective purpose: to control the pandemic, to save lives, and to heal as a nation," Biden said.

The president-elect also said he would use the power of the federal government to require people to wear masks in federal buildings and when traveling from state to state on planes, trains and buses.

Mostly that would codify policies already in place. But Biden said he would urge governors and mayors to impose similar requirements.

Topping the roster of Biden's picks was health secretary nominee Xavier Becerra, a Latino politician who rose from humble beginnings to serve in Congress and as California's attorney general. Others include a businessman renowned for his crisis management skills and a quartet of medical doctors, among them Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious-disease specialist.

AP

President-elect Joe Biden, right, and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris, left, listen as a video of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who has been nominated by Biden to serve as secretary of Health and Human Services, is displayed during an event at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del., Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020.

The usual feel-good affirmations that accompany such unveilings were overshadowed by urgency, with new cases of COVID-19 averaging more than 200,000 a day and deaths averaging above 2,200 daily as the nation struggles with uncontrolled spread.

Vaccines are expected soon. Scientific advisers to the government meet Thursday to make a recommendation on the first one, a Pfizer shot already being administered in the United Kingdom. Indeed, President Donald Trump held his own event Tuesday, to take credit for his administration's work to speed vaccine development.

But having an approved vaccine is one thing, and getting it into the arms of 330 million Americans something else altogether. Biden will be judged on how well his administration carries out the gargantuan task.

On Tuesday, the president-elect warned that his team's preliminary review of Trump administration plans for vaccinations has found shortcomings. And he called on Congress to pass legislation to finance administration of vaccines as they become more widely available next year. That would effectively close the loop, from lab to patient.

The rest of Biden's extensive health care agenda, from expanding insurance coverage to negotiating prices for prescription drugs, will likely hinge on how his administration performs in this first test of competence and credibility.

Becerra, Biden's pick to head the Department of Health and Human Services, will be backed in the White House by businessman Jeff Zients, who will assume the role of coronavirus response coordinator. Running complex, high-risk operations is his specialty.

Alongside Fauci, the other medical doctors selected include infectious-disease specialist Rochelle Walensky to run the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vivek Murthy as surgeon general and Yale epidemiologist Marcella Nunez-Smith to head a working group to ensure fair and equitable distribution of vaccines and treatments.

Participating by video, Fauci called Biden's 100-day plan "bold but doable, and essential to help the public avoid unnecessary risks and help us save lives."

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PHOEBE GRACE K. REIONG
Petitioner,
vs
WENCESLAU A. REIONG
Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0336

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505694 CK Saipan as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2020.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Family: Black man shot by deputy held a sandwich, not a gun

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Civil rights and FBI investigators will help look into the fatal shooting by an Ohio sheriff's deputy of a Black man whose family says that he was holding not a gun, but a sandwich, and that he was shot in front of two toddlers and his grandmother while inside his home, not outside it, as authorities assert.

The office of U.S. Attorney David M. DeVillers in Ohio said Tuesday that it would step in—along with the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, the FBI in Cincinnati and the Columbus police—after the state attorney general's office declined to investigate the shooting of Casey Goodson Jr., 23, because it said the police department didn't ask soon enough.

"My grandson just got shot in the back when he came in the house," Goodson's grandmother told a dispatcher Friday, according to 911 recordings obtained by The Associated Press. "I don't know if he's OK."

Goodson had just gone to the dentist, she told the dispatcher, and she didn't know what had happened or who shot him.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office first reported Friday the fatal shooting of a man that day on the north side of Columbus. The case was given to city police because the Sheriff's Office does not oversee investigations of its own deputies in fatal shootings, and the police department did not release such details as the names of Goodson and the deputy who shot him until Sunday.

Since then, Goodson's relatives and law enforcement officials have given conflicting details. Visible evidence of the events is lacking because the Sheriff's Office does not provide officers with body cameras, and the deputy's SWAT vehicle did not have a dash-mounted camera.

The deputy, Jason Meade, a 17-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, had been assigned to a U.S. Marshals Office fugitive task force. The task force had just finished an unsuccessful search for a fugitive Friday afternoon when Goodson, who was not the suspect, drove by and waved a gun at Meade, according to U.S. Marshal Peter Tobin.

Meade confronted him outside Goodson's vehicle in front of the man's home, Tobin said.

One witness heard Meade command Goodson to drop his gun, and when he didn't, the deputy shot him, Tobin said. Goodson was taken to a hospital, where he died.

But attorneys for Goodson's family say that he was shot while walking in his home, and that his grandmother and two toddlers, who were not his own children, witnessed the shooting.

Tobin's narrative leaves out "key details that raise cause for extreme concern," the attorneys' statement reads, including the object Goodson was holding. Police say it was a gun that was later recovered from the scene; Goodson's family says he was holding a Subway sandwich.

"At this point, witness testimony and physical evidence raise serious concerns about why Casey was even confronted, let alone why he was shot dead while entering his own home," the lawyers added.

Pfizer vaccine moves closer to getting the OK in the US

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. regulators Tuesday released their first scientific evaluation of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine and confirmed it offers strong protection, setting the stage for the government to green light the biggest vaccination effort in the nation's history.

The analysis by Food and Drug Administration scientists comes ahead of a Thursday meeting where the agency's independent advisers will debate if the evidence is strong enough to recommend vaccinating millions of Americans. A final FDA decision and the first shots could follow within just days.

They are among a whirlwind of developments that are expected to make multiple vaccines available by early next year, in the U.S. and beyond.

Britain on Tuesday began vaccinations with the shot made by Pfizer and German partner BioNTech. The FDA later this month will consider one developed by Moderna. Also Tuesday, a medical journal published early data suggesting a third vaccine candidate, AstraZeneca's, also protects people, though not as much as the two other frontrunners.

The vaccines emerged from an all-out worldwide race and are reaching the market less than a year after the virus was even identified—a remarkable scientific achievement that shaved years off the usual process.

The encouraging developments come as the coronavirus continues surging across much of the world. The scourge has claimed more than 1.5 million lives, including over 285,000 in the U.S., the highest toll of any country.

FDA scientists reanalyzed data from Pfizer's huge, still-unfinished study and found that so far, the vaccine appears safe and more than 90% effective across patients of different ages, races and underlying health conditions. The FDA specifically confirmed it works well in older people, who are especially vulnerable to the virus.

Asia

AMID VIRUS SURGE

HK to tighten measures

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam says social distancing measures will be tightened as cases of the coronavirus continue to surge, with a ban on nighttime dining and more businesses ordered to close.

Lam said at a regular news conference Tuesday that there will be a ban on dine-in services at restaurants after 6 p.m., and venues such as massage parlors, beauty salons and gyms will be closed temporarily. She did not specify when the measures will take effect.

"We all need to be mentally prepared about more measures to be rolled out," Lam said, adding that there was "no choice" given the current virus situation in the city.

Hong Kong is grappling with the latest surge of coronavirus infections, with nearly 1,200 new cases in the last two weeks after a three-month lull.

Many of the cases in the recent surge have been linked to outbreaks in dance studios across the city, with Hong Kong ordering those who have visited stipulated venues to undergo mandatory testing. Clusters have also been found at a department store, a public housing estate and construction sites in the city.

Hong Kong has reported a total of 6,976 cases, including 112 deaths.

In other developments in the region:

■ South Korea says it plans to secure around 84 million doses of coronavirus vaccines for a mass immunization program that officials hope will allow the country to restore some level of normalcy by mid-to-late 2021. Health Minister Park Neung-hoo said Tuesday that the doses would cover 44 million people in a population of about 51 million. The shots will be delivered first to medical professionals, essential workers and people most at risk from COVID-19, including senior citizens and residents at long-term care facilities, starting possibly within the first half of next year, although officials didn't provide a specific timetable. While the vaccines will begin to arrive in South Korea in February or March, Park said officials will take a cautious approach in administrating them and could spend two or three months reviewing the vaccination results of other countries and evaluating safety risks. Still, the country expects to vaccinate half its population at some point "not too late" in 2021, Park said.

■ Authorities have ordered mass coronavirus testing and locked down some locations in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu following the detection of two new virus cases there. Chengdu health officials identified the cases as a 69-year-old woman, who's condition is listed as serious, and her 71-year-old husband, who has yet to show symptoms. Officials at a Monday night news conference said they are still investigating the source of the infection in Sichuan province's capital and largest city, which has been relatively unscathed by the pandemic. Five locations in Chengdu's Ludu district have been sealed off, including a hospital, a school and a wholesale market, and more than 21,000 people had been tested as of Monday evening, the government said.

■ Australia says it will extend its ban on international cruise ships and on Australians leaving the country except under exceptional circumstances for another three months until March. The extension means the human biosecurity emergency declaration will last for at least a year despite COVID-19 cases declining in the nation. Australia has imposed some of the most severe border restrictions in the world since the pandemic began, requiring most of its citizens and permanent residents to apply for a permit and prove exceptional circumstances if they need to leave the country. Health Minister Greg Hunt said Tuesday that the departure ban was "very hard for Australians." Australia is a nation of 26 million people. Latest government figures showed there were only 1,618 active COVID-19 cases, with 30 patients in hospitals. In all states but the former hot spot Victoria, most of the infections were acquired overseas rather than from community transmission within Australia.

US provides anti-bomb, snipers' equipment to Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The U.S. defense chief announced Tuesday the delivery of nearly $30 million worth of weapons to the Philippines, which faces threats from Islamic State group-linked militants.

Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Christopher Miller made the announcement during a brief visit to Manila, where he met with his Philippine counterpart and the foreign secretary. The weapons, including equipment for snipers and anti-bomb squads, were delivered ahead of Miller's visit, officials said.

"The new equipment will strengthen the Armed Forces of the Philippines' joint precision strike, sniper, riverine and counter-improvised explosive device capabilities," the U.S. Embassy said in a statement, without elaborating.

The Department of Defense in Manila said Miller told Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana that the U.S. will also deliver a Lockheed C-130 transport aircraft to the Philippine military later this month. No other details were given. Lorenzana thanked the U.S. for helping the Philippines strengthen its defense capabilities.

Miller said his talks with Lorenzana and Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. centered on "deepening our alliance and supporting a free and open South China Sea and Indo-Pacific region."

Miller is the latest senior U.S. security official to visit Manila and announce defense assistance to America's oldest treaty ally in Asia. The visits project normalcy in Washington's foreign relations as President Donald Trump continues to challenge the results of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

U.S. National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien visited Manila three weeks ago and announced the delivery of precision-guided missiles and other weapons to help the Philippines battle Muslim militants. He also renewed a pledge to defend the Philippines if it comes under attack in the disputed South China Sea.

O'Brien repeated U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's statement early this year that "any armed attack on Philippine forces, aircraft or public vessels in the South China Sea will trigger our mutual defense obligations."

O'Brien expressed hope for the continuance of a security agreement that allows American forces to train in large-scale combat exercises in the Philippines.

President Rodrigo Duterte moved to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement with the U.S. early this year but later delayed the date the decision would take effect to next year, a move welcomed by O'Brien.

World

Iraqis slowly rebuild Mosul, but with little aid from govt

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Anan Yasoun rebuilt her home with yellow cement slabs amid the rubble of Mosul, a brightly colored manifestation of resilience in a city that for many remains synonymous with the Islamic State group's reign of terror.

AP

A damaged house remains un-repaired three years after Iraqi forces defeated the Islamic State group, in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq Nov. 29, 2020.

In the three years since Iraqi forces, backed by a U.S.-led coalition, liberated Mosul from the militants, Yasoun painstakingly saved money that her husband earned from carting vegetables in the city. They had just enough to restore the walls of their destroyed home; money for the floors was a gift from her dying father, the roof a loan that is still outstanding.

Yasoun didn't even mind the bright yellow exterior —paint donated by a relative. "I just wanted a house," said the 40-year-old mother of two.

The mounds of debris around her bear witness to the violence Iraq's second-largest city has endured. From Mosul, IS had proclaimed its caliphate in 2014. Three years later, Iraqi forces backed by a U.S.-led coalition liberated the city in a grueling battle that killed thousands and left Mosul in ruins.

Such resilience is apparent elsewhere in the city, at a time when Baghdad's cash-strapped government fails to fund reconstruction efforts and IS is becoming more active across the disputed territories of northern Iraq.

Life is slowly coming back to Mosul these days: merchants are busy in their shops, local musicians again serenade small, enthralled crowds. At night, the city lights gleam as restaurant patrons spill out onto the streets.

The U.N. has estimated that over 8,000 Mosul homes were destroyed in intense airstrikes to root out IS. The nine-month operation left at least 9,000 dead, according to an AP investigation.

Memories of the group's brutality still haunt locals, who remember a time when the city squares were used for the public beheading of those who dared violate the militants' rules.

The Old City on the west bank of the Tigris River, once the jewel of Mosul, remains in ruins even as newer parts of the city have seen a cautious recovery. The revival, the residents say, is mostly their own doing.

"I didn't see a single dollar from the government," said Ahmed Sarhan, who runs a family coffee business.

Antique coffee pots, called dallahs, line the entrance to his shop, which has been trading coffee for 120 years. An aging mortar and pestle, used by Sarhan's forefathers to grind beans, sits in his office as evidence of his family's storied past.

UN urges Iran to address nuclear, ballistic missile concerns

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is urging Iran to address concerns raised about its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and return to "full implementation" of its 2015 nuclear deal with major powers.

The U.N. chief expressed regret in a report to the Security Council obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press that the Trump administration withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and reimposed sanctions against Tehran, and at Iran's 2019 decision to violate limits in the deal including on centrifuges and enriching uranium.

Guterres said in the report on implementation of a council resolution endorsing the 2015 nuclear agreement that for the last five years the nuclear deal "has been largely viewed by the international community as a testament to the efficacy of multilateralism, diplomacy and dialogue, and a success in nuclear nonproliferation."

But President Donald Trump has waged war on the nuclear agreement, denouncing it during the 2016 campaign as the worst deal ever negotiated, and he has kept up opposition in the years since the U.S. pullout in 2018.

The Trump administration maintains the agreement—the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA—is fatally flawed because certain restrictions on Iran's nuclear activity gradually expire and will allow the country to eventually develop atomic weapons. In August, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo formally notified the U.N. that it was invoking a provision of the 2015 deal to restore U.N. sanctions, citing significant Iranian violations and declaring: "The United States will never allow the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism to freely buy and sell planes, tanks, missiles and other kinds of conventional weapons ... (or) to have a nuclear weapon."

But the remaining parties to the JCPOA—Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany —as well as the overwhelming majority of the Security Council called the U.S. action illegal because the U.S. had withdrawn from the treaty. The council and the secretary-general both said there would be no action on the U.S. demands —which meant there would be no U.N. demand for countries to re-impose U.N. sanctions on Iran.

Nonetheless, concerns by the U.S. as well as the European parties to the JCPOA have increased, especially with Iran continuing to violate the deal's limits. Iran has openly announced all its violations of the nuclear deal in advance and said they are reversible.

Environment

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Plant. Picture. Post:

Join the #Plant500Marianas Trees Challenge

Are you ready for a really easy but worthwhile challenge?

Yes? Then take on the #Plant500Marianas challenge, and 'Plant. Picture. Post.'

First lady Diann Torres, with Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Lael Terlaje and Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto, is challenging all of us to collectively plant 500 trees by Jan. 31, 2021, where, for every tree that gets planted, a dollar will be donated to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

MINA is an environmental conservation organization that has been serving the CNMI community for 15 years now, through community-and science-based conservation programs that enhance and sustain the island's natural environment, and culture.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, the first lady shared that #Plant500Marianas came about during a filming of a recently released web event for the Lady Diann Torres Foundation where she challenged the two reigning CNMI queens, Terlaje and Sasamoto, to take on the "social media-powered" tree planting project.

"We were all discussing platforms, advocacy, and realized we all had one thing in common, we cared for our islands and the environment… Our islands lost a lot of trees due to recent disasters, invasive species so, what better way, better time to replace those," Torres said.

Sasamoto shared that the project is a great way for the community to stay active all while seeing the fruits of their labor flourish. "We are able to provide fruits as healthy snacks, plant native trees, and strengthen our ties to our culture since our culture is heavily reliant on our environment."

"Trees, we benefit so much from oxygen, to even beautifying [our island]. The more we plant trees, especially our native and endemic trees, [the more we] promote the prosperity of our islands for our future, especially for our young children," Terlaje added.

Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 both heavily devastated the islands and uprooted trees, and so all the more the need for everyone to support campaigns promoting the trees' growth and regrowth, especially native ones.

How to take the challenge

"This pandemic started a trend and that is the love for planting. The challenge is to plant 500 trees. However they want to take a photo of it, whether it be a selfie with the plant, or a group photo with the tree, as long as they upload, tag us with a #plant-500marianas," Torres shared.

So what do we need to do to take part in the challenge? Simple, "Plant. Picture. Post."

Plant. Plant a tree, could be native ones or fruit trees (coconuts, bananas, mango) in your yard or garden. You could support local business and purchase seedlings from local nurseries, or you could also ask relatives if they have some. If you have seedlings yourself, you could propagate, and share with others who would want to join the campaign.

If you don't have your own space to plant trees, make sure to consult first with CNMI Forestry or MINA on where it is best to plant trees on the island. We need to be mindful as to where we plant the trees, as we don't want to be planting trees where there is a sewer line or a power pole. It is always good practice to consult first with people who know where best to plant these trees.

Picture. Take a photo with the tree that you have planted. It can be a selfie or a group photo, as long as it is with the tree, it doesn't really matter.

Post. Post your photo with the tree on Facebook and Instagram. Tag and follow the social media accounts of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation (@ladydianntorres), Miss Northern Marianas Earth (@missnorthernmarianasearth), and Miss Northern Marianas (@missnorthernmarianas). Make sure to use the #plant-500marianas so they can account for all those who have taken the challenge.

'A little goes a long way'

Again, the goal of #Plant-500Marianas is to reach 500 trees by the end of Jan. 31, 2021.

Sasamoto stressed that taking the initiative to be a part of the project will help MINA with their continued environmental efforts as well as the CNMI community as a whole.

"We want to promote the trees for growth and prosperity of the island. This is a great opportunity for the youth to get involved and for people to get involved in the environment. For every tree that is planted, a dollar will be donated to MINA, which is an organization that promotes trees and planting trees," Terlaje added.

MINA is very thankful to have been chosen as beneficiary to the challenge. Aside from LDTF and the NMI queens, the environmental organization also extends its appreciation to all their donors and sponsors, volunteers and partners, schools and supporters who have been with them through the years.

"Please know that we are truly thankful and proud of the conservation progress you've helped make possible for the past 15 years. It is your continued support that sustains our mission and makes all the difference."

As for other environmental projects by the LDTF, Torres shared that they have been supporting groups and individuals in their efforts to protect the environment.

"Because the focus of Miss Earth is the environment, this would be the second year we are assisting in a planting effort to help keep our air clean. In addition, I am working with first lady Debbie Remengasau of Palau and her team with other ocean campaign."

The first lady also reminded everyone that every action towards environmental protection—planting trees, remembering to re-use, reduce, and recycle, helping in ocean cleanups—counts.

"Our islands are small and beautiful so we must do everything and anything to keep it safe, clean, and healthy for generations to come. A little goes a long way."

To learn more about #Plant-500Marianas, email ladydianntorres@gmail.com.

IVA MAURIN
Plant. Picture. Post. Take on the #Plant-500Marianas challenge by planting a tree, taking a photo, and tagging #plant500Marianas on Facebook and Instagram.

IVA MAURIN
Let's plant 500 Trees by Jan. 31! Take on the #Plant500Marianas challenge by planting a tree, taking a photo, and tagging #plant500Marianas on Facebook and Instagram. Organized by the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Lael Terlaje, and Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto, the goal is to plant 500 trees by Jan. 31, 2021 where for every tree that is planted, a dollar is donated to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance for their environmental projects. Photo shows community members during a tree planting activity organized by #plant500Marianas beneficiary MINA.

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Daddy Yankee achieves new balance, readies for his comeback

NEW YORK (AP)—A year after a series of concerts in Puerto Rico that ended up being his last because of the pandemic, Daddy Yankee is bringing those performances to YouTube as a Christmas gift to his fans around the globe. "DY2K20," the digital version of his show "Con Calma Pal' Choli," will be released in three parts on Yankee's YouTube channel, with the first installment out Friday. The others will drop on Dec. 14 and Dec. 21, respectively. "I wanted to give a Christmas present to all my fans during the pandemic, bring the party to their homes free of charge, bring them joy in such difficult times," the reggaeton star told The Associated Press in a phone interview from Miami. Yankee, who has stayed mostly out of the spotlight in 2020, said that while the pandemic has hit many very hard, it has also allowed him to do something he hadn't done in three decades: Focus on his health and rest.

Obama, Patti Smith among PEN America honorees

NEW YORK (AP)—Artists, activists and a former president gathered online for PEN America's annual gala, held virtually this year because of the pandemic. Those honored by the literary and human rights organization included the Chinese organizer and dissident Xu Zhiyong; Darnella Frazier, the teenager who taped the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police; and Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine who was a key witness during the impeachment of President Donald Trump. Meryl Streep, Spike Lee, Bono and Emma Thompson were among the celebrities offering tributes to Tuesday night's award winners. Hearst executive vice chairman Frank A. Bennack Jr. was this year's Corporate Honoree. PEN also presented a literary service prize to Patti Smith, who sang the ballad "Build a Peaceable Kingdom," and the Voice of Influence Award to former President Barack Obama, whose memoir "A Promised Land" came out last month.

Fans, Ono, bandmates mark 40 years since John Lennon's death

NEW YORK (AP)—Fans remembered John Lennon with flowers, candles and songs Tuesday, the 40th anniversary of the former Beatle's death after being shot outside his New York City apartment building. In Central Park's Strawberry Fields section, which is steps from where he was shot and is dedicated to Lennon, photos of the icon ringed the inlaid "Imagine" mosaic, along with a magazine, a small tree and other memorabilia, as musicians played nearby. It was Dec. 8, 1980, when the world-famous musician was with his wife, Yoko Ono, and was shot by Mark David Chapman outside the Dakota apartments on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Chapman remains in prison. At the time, The Associated Press reported, "Lennon and his wife were walking through the Dakota's big, arched entryway about 10:50 p.m. when a man approached them and fired five shots from a .38-caliber pistol. Lennon yelled 'I'm shot' and staggered up a few steps into the building and collapsed."

Steven Soderbergh among producers of upcoming Academy Awards

Oscar-winning filmmaker Steven Soderbergh is going behind the scenes for the next Academy Awards. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Tuesday that Soderbergh, "Erin Brokovich" producer Stacey Sher and awards show veteran Jesse Collins have come on board to produce the 93rd Oscars telecast. It's the first time producing the annual film awards for all three, who are taking up the mantle from last year's producers Lynette Howell Taylor and Stephanie Allain. The 93rd Academy Awards were delayed two months earlier this year because of COVID-19's effects on the film industry, but the show will still be televised live on ABC on April 25, 2021. No official announcements have been made as to whether 93rd Oscars will be virtual, as many other awards shows including the Emmys have done because of the pandemic, although signs point to a willingness to adapt to the moment. Last year's show, the second in a row without a host, had the smallest audience ever of 23.6 million viewers, down 20% from the year prior. ***(AP)***

Billy Porter to join New Year's Eve show from Times Square

Last New Year's Eve, Billy Porter was working in New Orleans. This year he'll still be working—but in New York City. The "Pose" star will join Ryan Seacrest and Lucy Hale on ABC in Times Square on Dec. 31 for Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2020." The broadcast is closed to the public due to the pandemic. "2020 has been a trying year for the world and I'm thrilled to have Billy and Lucy join me in ushering in a new year with fresh beginnings," said Seacrest in a statement. "We look forward to making sure it's a night for everyone to remember." Porter made his debut on the program last year, taking over from Hale as co-host in New Orleans and performing several songs. As with last year, Ciara will once again oversee the Los Angeles festivities. Last year, Porter became the first openly gay man to win an Emmy Award for best actor in a drama series for his role in "Pose." He also has a Grammy and a Tony for his work on the musical "Kinky Boots." ***(AP)***

Rashida Jones replaces Phil Griffin as MSNBC president

NEW YORK (AP)—Phil Griffin is stepping down as the longtime president of MSNBC, to be replaced early next year by rising NBC News executive Rashida Jones. Griffin, 64, has worked at NBC News for 35 years and has been president of MSNBC since 2008. With a primetime lineup led by Rachel Maddow, it has become established as the favorite of those wanting news from a liberal perspective. Jones, who has been with NBC News for the past seven years, is currently chief of breaking news and major events at the network. She just led the network's coverage of the 2020 presidential election and the team preparing Kristen Welker as moderator of the third presidential debate. She's the first Black executive to lead one of the major cable networks. Cesar Conde, the new chairman of the NBC Universal News Group, has made diversity one of his top priorities.

Arrest made in break-in at Tom Brady-Gisele Bundchen mansion

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP)—Police arrested a man Monday they say broke into a mansion owned by former New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and model Gisele Bundchen and made himself comfortable on a couch while no one else was in the home. Police in Brookline, just outside Boston, responded to the home around 6 a.m. after a security company monitoring the home reported that alarms had gone off in the house. They reported seeing an intruder in the house on a security camera. Officers found 34-year-old Zanini Cineus lying on a couch in the basement while no one was home. Brady and his family moved to Florida after he signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the offseason.

Nothing compares: Sinead O'Connor memoir coming out in June

NEW YORK (AP)—Sinead O'Connor hasn't released any albums in the past few years, but she has been getting some writing done. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books & Media announced Monday that the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter's memoir, "Rememberings," will come out June 1. Houghton Mifflin is calling the book a "revelatory" account of O'Connor's life, from her childhood in Dublin through such triumphs as her cover of Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U," and through her many controversies and her struggles with mental illness. Last month, she announced she was entering a year-long treatment program for trauma and addiction. "This is my story, as I remember it. I had great fun writing it over the past few years," O'Connor said in a statement. O'Connor, who turns 54 this week, is also known for the albums "The Lion and the Cobra" and "I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got."

Man wonders if larger house could signal bigger problem

DEAR ABBY: My fiancee, "Diane," and her two sons live in a nice home. I also have a nice home, newly constructed. It's located 1,200 miles away, near my parents, my son and my job. Diane currently has no job nor family within 500 miles of her town. Her boys' father (whom she shares custody with) lives within 50 miles of me. My job and the custody arrangement for my son preclude me from living where Diane does.

Together, she and I would have three sons. The spacious five-bedroom house I own is more than adequate. Diane has made clear that if I sell my home and buy my neighbor's, which is a larger seven-bedroom manor, she will be on the next flight. If not, she won't leave. We could buy the manor with cash if I sell my home and she sold hers and put her savings into the purchase, but she doesn't want to use her savings.

Diane is my everything, but it feels like I may just be chasing a dream. I worry that if I'm not enough, will I be enough when I own a manor?

IT'S COMPLICATED

DEAR IT'S COMPLICATED: I'm proud of you. You are seeing things clearly, which is unusual when emotions are involved. It appears your dream girl, the fair Diane, is attempting to blackmail you. If she can't be the "lady of the manor," she's not interested in uprooting her life. If you give in to her now, do not do it without an ironclad prenuptial agreement. Please stay strong, because if you don't, you may regret it for a long time.

DEAR ABBY: My sisters and I are beside ourselves trying to deal with our 90-year-old mother. She doesn't live in the same state as any relatives. She needs help paying bills, managing money, personal hygiene, taking medication and understanding things she reads. She refuses to give anyone power of attorney over her finances or to create a health care directive. She claims she's not going to die.

At the very least, she likely has some form of dementia. We want nothing more than to protect her interests, but our hands are tied. We have all spoken to her about the situation, but she insists that no one is going to tell her what to do. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

JUST TRYING TO HELP HER

DEAR JUST TRYING: Believe me, you have my sympathy. Instead of telling your mother what to do, perhaps it's time to reframe the conversation.

Ask her what she would like done in the event of an emergency. Does she want "extraordinary measures" taken, such as CPR, and exactly what that means—a defibrillator, dialysis, treatment in an intensive care unit. Explain what all of them entail in detail. You should also ask, in a separate conversation, if she wants "the state" to take a chunk of her assets and decide FOR her to whom they should be distributed, or whether she would prefer to make her wishes clear while she's still able. Point out that NO ONE lives forever.

If your mother is really as demented as you fear she is, you may need the help of a social worker to ensure that she's getting proper care. Failure to do that could be considered elder abuse.

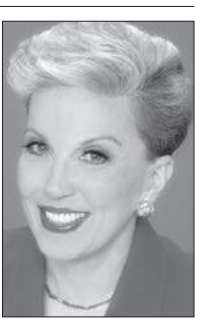
TO MY READERS: The eight days of Hanukkah begin at sundown. (A bit early this year!) Happy Hanukkah, everyone! A joyous Festival of Lights to all of us.

Love, ABBY

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

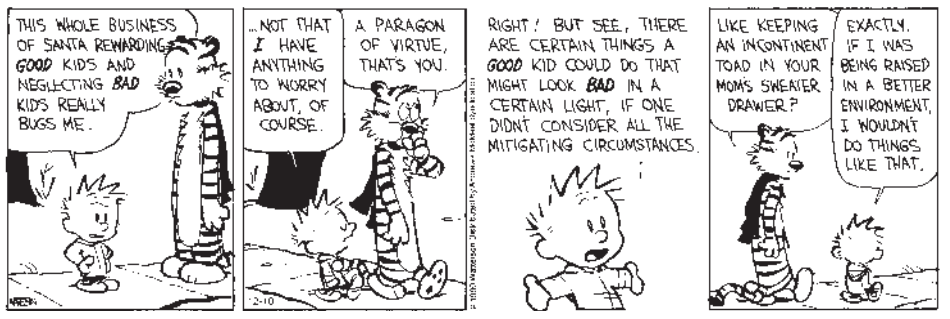


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS WHOLE BUSINESS OF SANTA REWARDING GOOD KIDS AND NEGLECTING BAD KIDS REALLY BUGS ME.
...NOT THAT I HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, OF COURSE.
A PARAGON OF VIRTUE, THAT'S YOU.
RIGHT! BUT SEE, THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS A GOOD KID COULD DO THAT MIGHT LOOK BAD IN A CERTAIN LIGHT, IF ONE DIDN'T CONSIDER ALL THE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.
LIKE KEEPING AN INCONTINENT TOAD IN YOUR MOM'S SWEATER DRAWER?
EXACTLY. IF I WAS BEING RAISED IN A BETTER ENVIRONMENT, I WOULDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I BET YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING, HAVEN'T YOU?
ACTUALLY, I'M DONE
I LOVE AND HATE HER SO MUCH
BALANCE IS GOOD
JIM DAVIS 12-10

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, GARRETT. HOW'S YOUR DECEMBER SO FAR?
OH, MINE'S GOOD. JUST WAITING ON THINGS. LIKE A PLATE OF DELICIOUS COOKIES.
LIKE COOKIES THAT COME EVERY YEAR AND HAVEN'T COME THIS YEAR YET!
I KEPT THAT VAGUE ENOUGH, RIGHT?
12-10

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lobbyists' org.
4 Refer to
8 Junk email
12 Swelled head
13 Winnebago owner, briefly
14 In — land
15 Italian noblewoman
17 Woolly moms
18 Sticky stuff
19 True-blue
21 President Ford
24 Scrap
25 Enzyme ending
26 Dawn goddess
28 Spassky's game
32 Lip
34 Bankroll
36 Blue material?
37 Overly aggressive
39 Director Craven
41 Mouths (Lat.)
42 — Lingus
44 Like "it"
46 Ice cream parlor orders
50 Texter's "More than I need to know!"
51 Crunchy cookie
52 Annual December barhopping tour
56 Explode, as a volcano
57 French 101 verb
58 Mine yield
59 Taxpayer IDs
60 Put on
61 Cagers' gp.

DOWN

1 Chest muscle
2 In the past
3 Capitol assembly
4 Big Easy cuisine
5 Hosp. hookups
6 Hardy heroine
7 Poet's muse
8 Nancy Drew and Sam Spade, for two
9 Hock
10 Actor Guinness
11 Prepare potatoes
16 Ode title starter
20 Joan of —
21 React in horror
22 Birthright barterer
23 Part of DJIA
27 Cutting tool
29 Cyberspace wink, e.g.
30 "Absolutely!"
31 Luminary
33 Follows secretly
35 Lair
38 Pro vote
40 Hunting dog
43 Darn again
45 Ms. Thurman
46 Weeps
47 Web addresses
48 Inert gas
49 Glut
53 Gun lobby org.
54 Sphere
55 PBS funder

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	E	P		J	U	D	O		O	P	A	L
M	C			A	K		N		N	I	C	E
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G	U	A	V	A			O	B	I			
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C	L	E	M	E	N	T	S		L	E	T	O
G	O	V		A	C	H	O	O		R	A	T
A	B		T		S	O	L	V	E	N	T	S
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			N	A	G			F	A	N	U	P
C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	S		A	B	A
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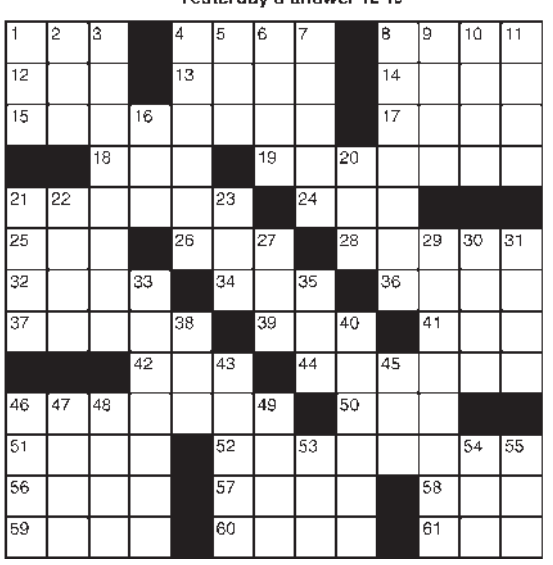
N	E	A	L		S	H	A	W		A	R	E

Yesterday's answer 12-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Raven-Symone, 35; Emmanuelle Chriqui, 45; Meg White, 46; Kenneth Branagh, 60.

Happy Birthday: Take your time; rushing into something will be what holds you back. Pay attention to detail, and be responsible for achieving your dreams. Change begins with you, and the more you do on your own, the easier it will be to get things done. Listen to your intuition, not to someone trying to lead you in a different direction. Your numbers are 4, 21, 25, 31, 37, 42, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't let emotional vacillation stand between you and a good opportunity. A lifestyle change may scare you, but doing nothing will lead to regret. Believe in your ability to make things happen and to handle whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of your responsibilities, and keep moving forward. Look over contracts, negotiate and consider your options. Don't let someone's uncertainty drag you down. Ask direct questions, and make decisions that are in your best interest. Romance will ease stress. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Trust your instincts instead of following the crowd. Don't believe everything you hear or participate in events that go against your beliefs. Be true to yourself, honest about how you feel and determined to live life your way. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Steer clear of joint ventures. Handle shared expenses with care, and keep your emotions out of financial decisions. Concentrate on personal improvement, health, fitness and looking your best. How you present yourself to the world will make a difference. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take pride in your home and lifestyle. Strive for perfection, be responsible and do your research before you make a move. A unique offer may tempt you, but you are better off doing your own thing. Challenge your mind and learn something new. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Embrace change. Walk away from situations that cannot benefit you. Look for a unique opportunity, and strive to do your very best. What you master today will lead to a new and exciting way to live your life. Romance looks promising. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Use your energy wisely. Don't get caught in someone's dilemma. Walk away from adversity and toward intellectual stimulation and pursuits. A change of heart will help you realize what you want out of life and how to make it happen. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Uncertainty will surface if you are too open about how you feel or what you plan to do next. A reserved approach to prospects, coupled with behind-the-scenes work to put everything in place, will lead to the success you crave. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Consider how you handle and earn your cash. Look at your assets, what others expect of you and what you are capable of doing. Be honest with yourself and others, and offer only what's reasonable. You don't have to impress anyone; just be yourself. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Deep-six emotional issues for the time being. Stay focused on what you want to accomplish and building a strong, stable home environment that will soothe your soul. Don't let matters concerning institutions or government agencies escalate. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take note of what's going on around you. Be observant, but don't let outside matters consume you. Be diligent when it comes to taking care of your responsibilities, and protect your reputation, position and status as you move forward. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take more time for yourself. Personal growth, improving your physical appearance and romance will alleviate stress and encourage happiness. Follow through with a creative endeavor, or develop a strategy that helps you utilize your skills to increase your income. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are witty, enthusiastic and playful. You are original and audacious.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		1		3		8	
2		1		7		6		4
	3						1	
4								9
5	6						2	3
	1						5	
8		5		4		3		6
	2		3		9		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	4	3	2	7	1	9	5	6
6	2	9	5	3	8	7	4	1
7	5	1	9	4	6	2	8	3
2	8	4	7	9	3	1	6	5
9	6	5	4	1	2	8	3	7
1	3	7	6	8	5	4	2	9
3	7	2	1	6	4	5	9	8
5	1	8	3	2	9	6	7	4
4	9	6	8	5	7	3	1	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MUSTARD IS A COLOR **Solution: 10 letters**

T	E	F	F	I	E	L	D	P	O	L	I	S	H	S
N	S	I	I	S	U	N	O	R	T	U	O	R	G	N
E	U	T	R	E	A	W	D	E	E	S	L	N	R	O
M	O	O	E	M	D	L	N	N	B	S	I	L	O	J
I	L	M	O	E	E	T	O	K	N	R	S	E	U	I
D	B	T	R	R	H	I	N	E	R	N	O	R	P	D
N	T	Y	A	C	L	S	N	A	R	A	G	W	Y	L
O	S	P	R	E	I	I	E	A	L	P	D	R	N	O
C	P	E	D	A	L	T	Y	N	M	P	A	I	R	G
A	E	N	P	Y	N	S	E	A	O	N	I	A	Z	S
N	A	K	I	A	E	I	L	H	A	T	N	H	N	N
D	F	N	I	C	R	N	L	C	T	G	S	C	O	E
L	O	L	U	L	G	D	O	U	E	S	O	M	M	E
E	S	A	L	G	A	E	W	H	C	R	E	R	E	R
S	S	H	I	R	T	B	L	O	N	D	E	A	L	G

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Aesthetic, Algae, Apparel, Armchair, Blonde, Blouse, Brown, Canary, Candles, Condiment, Corn, Culinary, Dandelion, Dark, Dijon, Drapes, Dress, Dull, Earrings, Field, Fire, Gemstones, Gold, Greens, Group, Grout, Honey, Lamp, Lemon, Like, Linens, Motif, Nails, Orange, Ottoman, Plant, Polish, Powder, Sauces, Seed, Sheets, Shirt, Sofa, Sun, Yarn, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Protected

Treasuries 13 through 18 and 20 through 38 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Bucks still on a waiting game with Giannis

MILWAUKEE—The ball is in Giannis Antetokounmpo's court: Will he or won't he sign a supermax contract extension to stay with Milwaukee before the Dec. 21 deadline to do so? He certainly can find a pen.

Sources have long told NBC Sports they expect him to re-sign (now or next summer) and stay in Milwaukee—and a recent poll of agents found the same thing—but after the Bogdan Bogdanovic sign-and-trade fell apart, the Bucks are losing confidence it will happen before the season starts?

Milwaukee had been confident the Greek Freak would re-sign after the team traded for Jrue Holiday, a better playoff fit next to Antetokounmpo than Eric Bledsoe. However, Antetokounmpo reportedly preferred Bogdanovic, the gritty fellow European, as the Bucks' primary target.

It would follow the playbook Antetokounmpo has been using to not sign before the Dec. 21 deadline, keeping pressure on the Bucks organization to improve the roster during the season (he can get the exact same contract next summer from Milwaukee). However, not signing now would bring a flood of speculation that would be a cloud following the Bucks around all season long—at every road game the story would be about Antetokounmpo and his next contract. There would be a stream of stories about what Dallas/Miami/Golden State/every other team could do to land Antetokounmpo. Every national Bucks broadcast would discuss it. It would be a regular topic on NBA talk shows all season long. It could be a distraction.

AP

In this Feb. 20, 2020 file photo, Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) makes a layup as Detroit Pistons forwards Thon Maker, left, and Sekou Doumbouya (45) defend during the first half of an NBA game in Detroit.

Antetokounmpo met with Milwaukee ownership after the Bucks were eliminated from the playoffs, a meeting that reportedly went well and one where the Bucks told the Greek Freak they would pay the tax to contend, but waiting to sign until next summer keeps the pressure up.

The supermax contract will most likely be worth $228.2 million over five years (it could go up to as much as $243.7 million depending on where the salary cap for the 2021-22 season lands). If Antetokounmpo wants a player option for his contract's final year, the Bucks will give it to him.

The ball is in Antetokounmpo's court. The Bucks just seem less confident he is going to play it right now.

Harden shows up

James Harden is back in Houston after missing the start of Rockets training camp and was going through the NBA's COVID-19 testing protocols on Tuesday.

Coach Stephen Silas said after Houston's practice that the disgruntled superstar had arrived in the city and was getting tested but didn't have much information beyond that.

"That's pretty much all I know right now," he said. "It's kind of some moving parts to it, I assume. But him getting tested in Houston is good for everybody."

Silas said he hadn't spoken to Harden and had no comment on reports that the All-Star wants to be traded.

"I don't have anything to do with that," Silas said. "But him being here shows a level of commitment to what we have going and what we have going forward. And that's that."

Harden's absence comes after the Rockets traded Russell Westbrook to Washington for John Wall and a first-round draft pick last week. The Rockets have expressed no interest in trading Harden despite months of reports that he wants to leave the team.

The Rockets open the preseason on Friday at Chicago. Silas said he wasn't sure if Harden would be with the team for that game, but it seems unlikely that he would be able to play if he just began testing on Tuesday.

The first-year coach, who took over for Mike D'Antoni, was asked how he'll repair the trust between himself and Harden after the player didn't report to camp on time.

"Trust is built day to day, once the relationship begins, then we'll begin that process of trust," Silas said. "Obviously, it wasn't a great start to it. But that's the NBA and the NBA isn't going to be roses every day. And there's going to be issues and there's going to be things that you're going to have to work through as a group. And that's what ... we're going to do." ***(AP/NBC)***

NBA coaches attire: Masks are in, jackets are optional

MIAMI (AP)—For NBA coaches, masks are required this season. Jackets are not.

Rules for coaching attire will be relaxed by the league this year, though not as much as was the case during play at the bubble at Walt Disney World this past summer. Suit jackets or sport coats will not be required—as was the case in the bubble, when most coaches wore polo shirts and many said they preferred that option.

The new league mandate, as detailed in a memo sent to coaches Sunday and obtained by The Associated Press, requires "business attire ... dress shirts, pants, socks, and shoes." There's no mention of ties, which some coaches have often gone without in recent years, but an exception is made for polo shirts as long as they are NBA-licensed and the head coach and all assistant coaches are wearing the same shirt.

The biggest change, though, is the masks, a decision made with safety in mind as the coronavirus pandemic rages on and NBA teams prepare to play in arenas again for the first time since last season was suspended on March 11 when Utah center Rudy Gobert tested positive.

"The NBA has always been a dynamic business and the challenges we face in society right now with COVID, it only amplifies the dynamic nature of our business," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle, the president of the National Basketball Coaches Association, told AP on Tuesday night. "You have to be able to adapt, you have to be looking for solutions ... and we're going to make it work."

The NBA preseason begins Friday and the regular season starts Dec. 22. The NBCA discussed the changes in a call with the league Tuesday night, and some teams will begin traveling for preseason games Thursday.

"Wear a mask at all times," Carlisle said when asked how he's preparing for the challenges that will come with traveling again for games. "That's your No. 1 shield. And No. 2, be alert and follow the protocols. It's an incredible amount of work to not get COVID. You've got to work extremely hard to try to stay out of harm's way and there are never any guarantees. But if you work at it you have a chance."

AP

In this Aug. 2, 2020 file photo, San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich reacts during the first half of the team's NBA game against the Memphis Grizzlies in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. For NBA coaches, masks are required this season. Jackets are not.

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich wore masks for games in the bubble this past summer, as did former Houston coach Mike D'Antoni and former New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry. They are all 65 or older, and at more risk of contracting the virus based on guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Now, masks are a mandate for all coaches, regardless of age.

Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said he hopes the move by coaches will further normalize mask-wearing among the public; the Heat were part of a campaign across Florida last summer, as virus numbers were soaring, to get people to wear masks.

"That's why I continued to wear masks during the playoffs, during the finals, even when we were not required to wear them during our media sessions," Spoelstra told The Associated Press. "One, it became a habit. And then two, we want to continue to use our platform to make people aware that masks can and do make a difference. And if they see us wearing them all the time and not having a problem with it and understanding the importance of it, hopefully that can normalize it everywhere else."

It's not just a game-night rule. The league, with limited exceptions, also will require coaches to wear masks "at all times" inside their team facility, while traveling and during practices.

"Although I look very good in a suit and tie, I will admit, I'm also very, very comfortable wearing a Nuggets polo and a pair of Travis-Mathew athletic leisure wear pants," Denver coach Michael Malone said last season during play in the bubble. "I think I've done a very good job with the look."

Alas, the athletic pants—"athleisure" is the term the NBA uses—must be shelved for game nights this season.

The decision on coaches wearing masks comes not long after the league and the National Basketball Players Association decided on health and safety protocols for the coming season, including how teams that do not comply with league rules designed to minimize the spread of the coronavirus could face major penalties such as forfeiting games or draft picks.

Jackson, Ravens run past Cowboys to end slide

BALTIMORE (AP)—Back in action after a 15-day layoff, Lamar Jackson directed a relentless rushing attack that the Baltimore Ravens hope will be the first big step in a run to the playoffs.

Jackson ran for 94 yards and a touchdown, and the Ravens returned from a COVID-19 outbreak to amass 294 yards rushing in a 34-17 rout of the Dallas Cowboys on Tuesday night.

Playing for the first time since Nov. 22 following a positive test for the potentially deadly virus, Jackson carried 13 times and threw for two scores. He was one of 23 Ravens to spend time on the reserve/COVID-19 list while four different strains of the virus swept through the organization.

"I still can't really taste or smell, but I'm good," Jackson said. "I feel good to be back with my guys. It was like two weeks I ain't seen them."

Although the Ravens still have a half-dozen players on the COVID-19 list, the team felt complete for the first time in weeks.

"It's like when you go on a family vacation and one of your family members get sick and you can't bring them," rookie linebacker Patrick Queen said. "You're down in the dumps."

The game was played on Tuesday night because Baltimore's previous game—against Pittsburgh last Wednesday—was pushed back three times while the Ravens had at least one player test positive for 10 consecutive days.

Gus Edwards ran for 101 yards on just seven carries and rookie J.K. Dobbins—who also missed time on the COVID-19 list—added 71 yards rushing and a TD to help Baltimore (7-5) break a three-game skid and stay alive in its quest to reach the postseason for a third straight year.

"It's a win we really, really had to have. It was a must-win," coach John Harbaugh said. "Running game was excellent. That was the key on offense."

Dallas came in with the worst rush defense in the league, and it showed. The Ravens averaged 7.9 yards per carry and prevailed despite getting only 107 yards passing from Jackson.

"I think today was obviously a different challenge than we've seen," Dallas coach Mike McCarthy said. "This is a unique offense. A very physical offensive line and the dynamic of the combination of the running backs and Lamar."

The last-place Cowboys (3-9) have lost six of seven. Andy Dalton went 31 for 48 for 285 yards and two touchdowns, and Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 77 yards.

AP

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott, center, is brought down by a host of Baltimore Ravens defenders during the second half of an NFL game, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, in Baltimore.

"I thought Andy managed the game very well," McCarthy said. "We needed to throw some bigger punches there and we needed to get on the board with touchdowns and we didn't get that done."

Greg Zuerlein missed three field goal tries and Dallas yielded 20 straight points after taking an early 10-7 lead.

The game was supposed to feature Ravens receiver Dez Bryant going against his former team, but Bryant left during warmups and was scratched with what Baltimore termed "an illness."

Bryant wrote on Twitter that he tested positive for COVID-19 and later posted: "Yea I'm going to go ahead and call it a quit for the rest of the season... I can't deal with this."

He subsequently posted a series of tweets, including, "Yea I'm coming back... I'm being smart."

Bryant scored 73 touchdowns with the Cowboys from 2010-17. He was signed by the Ravens in October and saw his first action in two years, catching four passes in three games.

On his first series following his unwanted week off, Jackson threw a pass that was tipped and intercepted. That led to a Dallas field goal, but Jackson answered with a 37-yard touchdown run on a fourth-and-2 play.

Tony Pollard took the subsequent kickoff 66 yards to set up a 13-yard touchdown pass from Dalton to Michael Gallup. It would be the last time Dallas led.

An interception by Queen set up a 38-yard touchdown pass from Jackson to Miles Boykin for a 14-10 lead.

Jackson's second TD pass of the game, a 20-yarder in the third quarter to Marquise Brown, made it 24-10.

If Jackson was rusty or stale after missing a game, it was tough to tell by his performance.

"The one thing you do know about Lamar: You're going to get everything he's got," Harbaugh said. "That's all you can ask for."

NFL union sees no current need for bubble to slow COVID-19

NEW YORK—The NFL players believe the season can be completed on time without the league moving into a version of a postseason bubble like other sports have as long as everyone follows the rules already in place meant to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

NFLPA President JC Tretter and Executive Director DeMaurice Smith held a virtual news conference on Tuesday to discuss the challenges the players have felt this season while playing during a global pandemic and address how things will change in the future.

Both Tretter and Smith said that the rules in place requiring players and staff to be tested daily, wear masks, socially distance and have tracers for contact tracing have helped prevent the spread of the virus.

They believe if everyone adheres to those rules over the next two months there would be no need for teams to sequester in hotels to avoid contact with the public.

"When we all follow the protocols, they work and they work well," Tretter said. "The contact tracing, getting everyone who potentially are exposed out of the building, works to stop the spread of the virus. It will all come down to how well we follow those protocols and we will continue to evolve those protocols as needed. We know they work and we need to make sure we have 100% compliance to finish the season."

Tretter and Smith didn't rule out the possibility that circumstances could change if the rate of infection in surrounding communities continues to rise, but said the situation in football is different with much bigger rosters than the NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball.

Smith also said that epidemiologists that the union consults with said moving into a bubble with such a large roster carries its own risks because it could make the virus spread even more if someone does happen to get it.

Tretter, a center on the Cleveland Browns, said there is also a human aspect to consider.

"Our players have wives and kids at home that they want to see," he said. "It's been a tough year from a mental health perspective for our players. The feeling of isolation of not being able to see people, their friends and family. Further asking guys to stay away from their young kids and family for six weeks is a big ask and has ramifications outside of the game of football."

The league and union released the latest results from testing that showed the rate of positive tests fell last week to 0.11% from 0.20% the previous week and rate of incidences fell to 0.74% from 1.35%.

In all, there were 18 new confirmed positive tests last week among players and 27 among other personnel, raising the numbers since Aug. 1 to 173 players and 297 personnel.

Union spokesman George Atallah said that 90% of players that test positive do so within five days of exposure. That is why the league and union have decided to isolate "high-risk" close contacts for a five-day period to make sure they continue to test negative.

That has led to some issues such as Denver being forced to play a game against New Orleans in Week 12 without any quarterbacks after backup Jeff Driskel tested positive and the three other QBs on the team were deemed "high risk" close contacts after they all were together unmasked during a film session.

That day of that game wasn't moved, while others have been when there has been concern that the virus could still be spreading through a team, making it more risky to play

"We're in a world where things won't all be perfect," Smith said. "We have to make decisions on the information and data we have at the time." ***(AP)***

Eagles pick Hurts over Wentz

Jalen Hurts will start for the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, sending Carson Wentz to the bench.

Eagles coach Doug Pederson made the announcement Tuesday on the team's website.

"We're not where we want to be as an offense," Pederson said. "I looked at the whole thing and decided that for this week to look for that spark again to try to get the team over the hump, to try to get everybody playing better."

Pederson insisted Monday the decision was his, even though Wentz's $128 million, four-year contract begins in 2021. Hurts replaced Wentz in the third quarter of a 30-16 loss to Green Bay and completed 5 of 12 passes for 109 yards, one touchdown, one interception and took three sacks.

"Carson is like all of us right now, he's disappointed. He's frustrated," Pederson said. "He's been a professional through it all. He supports his teammates and that's what you want to see from him, the leader of the team. I know sometimes the quarterback gets a lot of the blame like the head coach does. It's the good with the bad. It's not about Carson Wentz. It's not about one person. We know we have issues on offense and it has been a struggle for us all season. That's where the frustration lies a little bit, but he's been a pro and would expect nothing less."

Royals, Santana agree to $17.5M, 2-year deal

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —The Kansas City Royals and first baseman Carlos Santana have agreed to a $17.5 million, two-year contract that plugs one of their biggest offensive holes while providing some clubhouse leadership for a rebuilding club.

The 34-year-old Santana was an All-Star two years ago in Cleveland, when he hit a career-best .281 with 34 homers and 93 RBIs. But he slid to .199 with eight homers and 30 RBIs while playing 60 games during the shortened 2020 season, resulting in the Indians declining his $17.5 million option for the upcoming season.

He gets $7 million next season and $10.5 million in 2022, and his salary would escalate by $250,000 each time he becomes an All-Star or wins a Gold Glove or Silver Slugger.

Santana could earn $250,000 in performance bonuses next year: $25,000 for 300 plate appearances and each additional 25 through 525. He could earn $750,000 in performance bonuses for 2022: $75,000 for 300 plate appearances and each additional 25 through 525.

The Royals were in the middle with a .244 team average last season, but they hit just 68 home runs and were tied with—coincidentally—the Indians for the sixth-worst scoring offense in the majors.

"One of our objectives this offseason was to add a middle-of-the-order bat, someone that would blend in well with our current group, make us a lot better," Royals general manager Dayton Moore said. "Carlos certainly does that."

Santana should fill both an offensive need and defensive hold for the Royals. They had been toying with the possibility of moving Hunter Dozier to first base, but that would merely create another vacancy at third base and in the outfield, where they already have one to plug following the retirement of left-fielder Alex Gordon.

"He was one of the primary targets for us when we began to make offseason plans," Moore said. "You know, once we began our season, we started talking mid-to-late July (about) players that would potentially fit for us. Carlos's name was at the forefront of that based on the opportunity that we perceived that would perhaps present itself for us—middle of the order, switch hitter, highly professional. Winning-type player."

The Royals are very familiar with Santana from his time in the AL Central. He hit 216 homers with 710 RBIs during 10 seasons with the Indians, and he's been durable in playing at least 143 games every season but his rookie year and this past season, when he still suited up for every game for Cleveland.

Another bonus? The Royals won't have him in the other dugout anymore. Santana has hit .288 with 31 homers and 93 RBIs in 151 career games against them, the best of any team in the division.

The Royals also had the inside track on negotiations because Rene Francisco, their vice president and assistant GM, signed Santana as an amateur free agent when he was with the Los Angeles Dodgers in August 2014.

"That made the start-up of the conversation go extremely well," Moore said.

For years one of the quietest teams in free agency, the Royals have been on an early spending spree under new owner John Sherman. Relief pitcher Mike Minor signed an $18 million, two-year deal and outfielder Michael Taylor a $1.75 million deal for next season, and nearly all their arbitration-eligible players are under contract.

That includes an $8.05 million contract for slugger Jorge Soler and a $3.35 million deal for staff ace Brad Keller.

AP

In this Sept. 24, 2020 file photo, Cleveland Indians' Carlos Santana fields a ball hit by Chicago White Sox's Yasmani Grandal during the first inning of a baseball game in Cleveland.

Dunlop earns second Golfer of the Year title

For the first time in its long and storied history, the Ye Olde Saipanne Golfe Clubbe has a two-time champion.

Don "Champ" Dunlop bested eight other YOSGC members in last Saturday's tournament on the west course of the Laolay Bay Golf & Resort to become the club's 2020 Golfer of the Year, a title he also took during the inaugural championship in 2014.

Dunlop's gross score of 90 translated to a net 71, giving him a two-stroke victory over 2016 champion Michael Deary (gross 94/net 73) and rookie Glenn Bell (gross 92/net 73). Alone in fourth place was Juan Lizama, who finished three strokes off the lead with a gross score of 88 for a net 74. Rounding out the field were Richard Miller, Grant Balmer, Timothy Brasuell, and Wilhelm Maui.

When asked about his historic victory, Dunlop said "You know, it seems like at least five competitors played better than me. We're all champions the way I see it."

After the competition, the club held its post-tournament banquet with Dunlop presented with the YOSGC Champion's Jugge and Ugly Yellow Jacket by 2019 co-champions Lizama and Dan Harding. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Don Dunlop, center, receives the Champion's Jugge from 2019 co-champs Juj Lizama, right, and Dan Harding.

NEW

From Page 20

finishers raced in both heads and had a close fight with Jonoah Santos winning by just two points against Nov. 29 first placer Keeno Togawa.

Santos collected 47 points, clinching the division win after topping the six-lap Heat 2. He got 25 points in the second heat and had 22 in the first heat where he placed second behind Togawa. Seven-year-old Togawa dropped to second place (45 points), as he slid to third on Heat 2.

Rylie Manglona finished ahead of Togawa in Heat 2, but still placed third in the division, as the latter earlier on Heat 1 came in at third for a total of 42 points.

Meanwhile, riders in the Mini I and II were supposed to race in two heats, but ended up completing only Heat 1, as organizers decided to red flag Heat 2 for safety, as there was a downpour last weekend.

Kale Macaranas and MJ Camacho took the top podium finish in the Mini I and II, respectively, with the latter prevailing against six other riders.

Camacho won the Mini II race after making the move in the last two laps of the five-lap Heat 1. Yumul, who led after three laps, fell to second and was followed by Nanako Celis, Devin Yumul, Vicente Palacios, Aric Cruz, and Emelsha Cepeda.

JOSEPH CHIN

Jonoah Santos, left, joins Peewee II class riders at the starting line during the Marianas Racing Association event last Sunday at the Kan Pacific grounds.

JOSEPH CHIN

Spectators watch the ATV riders in the Peewee I class round the course

NMA

From Page 20

pied by Marianas High School's Josh Joson, Saipan International School's Rex Pixley and Samuel Culp, and Agape's Ray Qi. SIS' Tiana Cabrera led the Top 4 finishers in the girls category and was joined by Agape's Emma Pang, Grace Shi, and Eunice Xu.

The top high and middle school runners have to option to run one of the four courses in the Make-A-Wish fundraising event: 5K, 10K, half marathon, and full marathon. They must complete the chosen distance in one run between Dec. 1 and 31.

Free entry

Meanwhile, NMA will waive the entry fees for the Christmas Island Relay that will be held on Dec. 26.

The traditional season-ending event of NMA got the go-ahead from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and safety protocols against the pandemic will be implemented in the competition. The Christmas Island Relay will start at the Pacific Islands Club and end at the Last Command Post. Participants can enter either in the solo or team categories. More details about the event will be announced later.

Last year, Agape Team A was the overall No.1 finisher and open division winner of the 13.7-mile race after clocking in at 1:25:27. Agape Team C, on the other hand, topped the youth division after recording 1:34:39.

Bucks still on a waiting game with Giannis

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jackson, Ravens run past Cowboys to end slide

PAGE 18

New winners in Peewee races

JOSEPH CHIN
Zane Fuhijira gets ready at the starting line for the Peewee I class competition in last Sunday's Marianas Racing Association event at the Kan Pacific grounds.

JOSEPH CHIN
Young riders pose for a photo after their races.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Young rider Zane Fujihira made a big turnaround from last place to first, as he led the new winners list in last Sunday's Marianas Racing Association event at the Kan Pacific grounds.

Fujihira, who was ranked fourth in the Nov. 29 race, joined the Peewee I class (50 cc and ATV) and topped the dirt bike event, beating six other riders. The 7-year-old won both heats to earn 50 points (25 points each for first place finish) to down Bentley Koshiro (42 points), Joseph Santos (38 points), Sage Togawa (33 points), and Trey (22 points) and Tate (16 points) Manglona.

Koshiro was ranked second on Heat 1 to bag 22 points and kept his spot notching third place on Heat 2 and getting 20 markers. Santos was third in the opening heat and received 20 points and then came in fourth place in the last heat to add 18 to his total. Togawa got 18 points for her fourth place finish on Heat 1 and 15 (sixth spot) on Heat 2. The Manglona siblings, on the other hand, missed the opening heat and joined the last with Trey gaining 22 points for his second place and Tate earning 16 for occupying the No. 5 spot.

In the same Peewee I class, but ATV division, Melvin Reyes completed the two heats to take first place. He finished second in Heats 1 and 2 to notch 22 points each. Brooklyn Susulin topped Heat 1 to bag 25 points, but did not race in Heat 2, which last competition winner Therese Borja won. Borja did not join the opening heat of the ATV race to settle for third place.

In the Peewee II (dirt bike/60 cc to 90cc), the Top 3

See NEW on Page 19

NMA sponsors runners; Christmas relay OK'd

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The running season in the CNMI is not done yet, as Northern Marianas Association will sponsor high and middle school students in a virtual race and will go ahead with the Christmas Island Relay.

NMA will pay for the registration fees of 12 student-runners that will compete in the Make-A-Wish Foundation (Guam and CNMI) Jingle Rock Virtual Run. NMA secretary general Robin Sapong said the slots for the virtual event will be for the Top 2 finishers each in the boys and girls division of the middle school finale race in last weekend's 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series. In the high school division, NMA is sponsoring the Top 4 placers each in the boys and girls divisions.

Mt. Carmel School's Kaithlynn Chavez and Agape Christian School's Barbara Wang were 1-2 inn the girls middle school race, while the latter's teammates Peter Peng and Joseph Li notched the Top 2 finish in the boys division.

In the boys high school, the Top 4 slots were occu-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
High school runners compete in the finale of the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.